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Volume XXIV, Issue No. 87 | FRIDAY MAY 2, 2014 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

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INSIDE

NATION

Hundreds of people are rescued from floodwaters in Florida and Alabama. ➤ PAGE 27

ASIA

A new pact will allow thousands of U.S. troops to be temporarily based in the Philippines. ➤ PAGE XX

Rebates 'out as early as July'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Finance secretary cites options to get checks ahead of official release

Close to 7,500 taxpayers that have so far filed their 2013 individual tax returns could expect to receive "as early as July" an estimated $9 million in total rebate and refund checks, as well as child tax credit checks for others.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said yesterday that the number of 2013 tax filers as of yesterday—7,494—is still preliminary, along with the amount of checks to be released "before the opening of schools."

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10 criminal charges filed vs Fitial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government charged former governor Benigno R. Fitial yesterday with 10 criminal charges related to the unauthorized release of a federal inmate, award of a sole-source American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contract, and shielding former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served with penal summons.

The information charged the 68-year-old Fitial with one count of solicitation of escape, five counts of misconduct in public office, one count of conspiracy to commit escape, one count of use of public position to obtain benefits for business or social acquaintances, one count of conspiracy to commit theft of services, and one count of theft of

See CRIMINAL on Page 4

Fate of 2 casino applicants now in commission's hands

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lottery Commission chair Sixto Igisomar, standing left, confers with Office of the Attorney General's Civil Division chief Gil Birnbrich before the start of the commission's first meeting to officially accept the two Saipan exclusive casino license applications yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill. Also in photo are commissioners Larrisa Larson, Finance secretary, seated left, and Thomas Manglona, seated second from left, representing the Department of Public Safety commissioner, along with commission counsel Jim Stump, standing right, and assistant attorney general Reena Patel, seated right.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» May 5 meeting to decide on hiring experts coincides with $30M deposit deadline

The fate of two applications for a license to develop a casino resort on Saipan with an initial $2 billion price tag now rests with the four-member Lottery Commission, which officially accepted the applications yesterday afternoon, barely six weeks before the June 19 deadline to decide a grant of license or not, and to whom. A lone public comment at the beginning of the meeting questioned the commission members' qualifications and integrity.

After years of debate reaching the legislative halls and the courts over allowing casino operation on Saipan, it now comes down to whether either of the two applications received is worth the gamble to help boost the economy and pay back retirees' deferred 25-percent pension, among other things.

Commission chair Sixto Igisomar, in an interview after yesterday's one-hour meeting on Capital Hill, said they could start deciding on hiring needed experts when they meet again on Monday.

Among other things, they will evaluate the results of the separate requests for proposals for a casino investigator and gaming consultant.

Igisomar said he understands the frus-

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19 charities get $98.7K from garment suit funds. PAGE 3
Eichenberger, Costales top Law Day essay, poster contests. PAGE 25

Local

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SBH denies claim it charges fees for use of its beach

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A former lawmaker who once served as secretary of the Department of Public Lands expressed dismay upon learning that some foreign film and marketing outfits doing business on the island are being charged a fee for using what he believes is a public beach in Susupe.

Oscar Babauta said at a public hearing Wednesday that Sandy Beach Homes has allegedly been assessing a $1,000 fee for any filming activity outside of the company's vicinity—a claim that was denied by an official of the company.

"I was informed by some businesses that Sandy Beach Homes is charging them $1,000 [daily] just to be on the side of the beach to conduct their filmmaking. I would like to urge [the Commonwealth Development Authority] to look into this," Babauta said during the public hearing for Tasi Homes LLC's application for qualifying certificate.

According to Babauta, if this report is true, these foreign film outfits are being charged "double" for their beach activities because necessary permitting fees have already been paid to DPL.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that CDA is not the proper authority to look into the matter because the agency's jurisdiction over Sandy Beach Homes stopped after the expiration of the company's qualifying certificate last year.

Sandy Beach Homes LLC manager Mike Sablan clarified with *Saipan Tribune* the company's boundaries in the area.

"The beach west of Sandy Beach Homes and outside the SBH property boundary toward the ocean is a public beach. SBH does not have any jurisdiction over the public beach area and therefore does not and cannot charge for filming or other use of the area," he said in an email.

With respect to the use of SBH's private premises within the property boundaries, Sablan said SBH may charge for filming and other activities.

"This depends on the type of activity, how long the activity is, hours of the activity, use of SBH utilities and private parking areas, and, importantly, whether the activity is allowable under federal affordable housing regulations, which SBH is subject to. Political and certain commercial activities are disallowed by federal regulations," he said.

For SBH residents requesting use of the SBH premises for private activities, Sablan said SBH does not charge for these as long as prior approval is obtained from the building management.

"With respect to use of the public beach near SBH and, in fact, all public beaches, SBH residents and non-SBH residents are free to use these areas. I strongly recommend, however, that they first secure DPL or other relevant government agency approval if they intend to engage in filming, commercial activities, or political gatherings as there may be restrictions on these."

According to Sablan, perhaps there is some misunderstanding as to where SBH's private property boundaries lie.

"The coconut trees on the beach side is the general location of private/public boundary there. SBH built two sidewalks at the north and south ends of the building to provide public access to the public beach areas. We notice that many visitors to the area do use these access sidewalks to get to the public beach area," he added.

$98.7K from garment suit settlement donated to 19 charities

A total of $98,700 in leftover money from the class action against the garment industry has been donated to 19 charitable organizations.

After deducting these disbursements, the net amount remaining in the Garment Residual Charitable Fund is $14,940.21, according to former Superior Court associate judge Timothy H. Bellas, who is the GRCF administrator.

Bellas used to be the chairman of the Garment Oversight Board, which was set up pursuant to the $20-million settlement agreement in a class action against the garment industry.

The lawyer disclosed the donations in his report filed on Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Last March, Bellas issued a statement that on March 18, 2014, nearly $100,000 in GRCF was donated to different charitable groups. The groups were not identified in the statement.

In his interim report to the court, Bellas said those who received $10,000 each were the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, Karidat Social Services, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, VFW Saipan Post 3457, and NMI Crime Stoppers Program.

The NMI Museum of History & Culture received $5,700. Those who got $5,000 each were Saipan Community School, Commonwealth Cancer Association, NMI Judicial Historical Society, Center for Living Independently, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

The Diabetes Prevention Foundation Inc., Pet Assistance and Welfare Services, and the NMI Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence each received $3,000.

The NMI Humanities Council and Gineftao I ManMena (GIMM) were given $2,500 each, while Empty Vessel Ministry got $2,000. Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., and Church of the Nazarene received $1,000 each.

In a twist to this case, Bellas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the Internal Revenue Service has asked for $4,000 in Social Security contributions from the money that was given away by GOB.

Bellas said he previously wrote to IRS, explaining that the GOB is not an employer. He said IRS then went back to him, telling him that GOB should pay double because of penalty.

"I brought it to the judge when the money came in," Bellas said, adding that he wanted to pay the original amount just to get out of it and prevent spending more, but not the penalty.

Bellas said if they come up with an agreement to settle it with IRS for $4,000, it means there's about $10,000 leftover to distribute some more.

Bellas said he has made several inquiries in an effort to resolve the residual tax matter with various branches/divisions of the IRS.

"None of those efforts have proved meaningful," he said, adding that he has been unable to contact someone with sufficient legal background to be able to comprehend the unique circumstances of the GOB and its creation.

Bellas said he spoke with assistant U.S. attorney Mikel Schwab of the Office of the U.S. Attorney in Guam and that Schwab has agreed to inquire within IRS for a possible resolution of the matter. If this attempt to resolve the matter by negotiation and settlement proves unsuccessful, Bellas said he shall seek further guidance from the court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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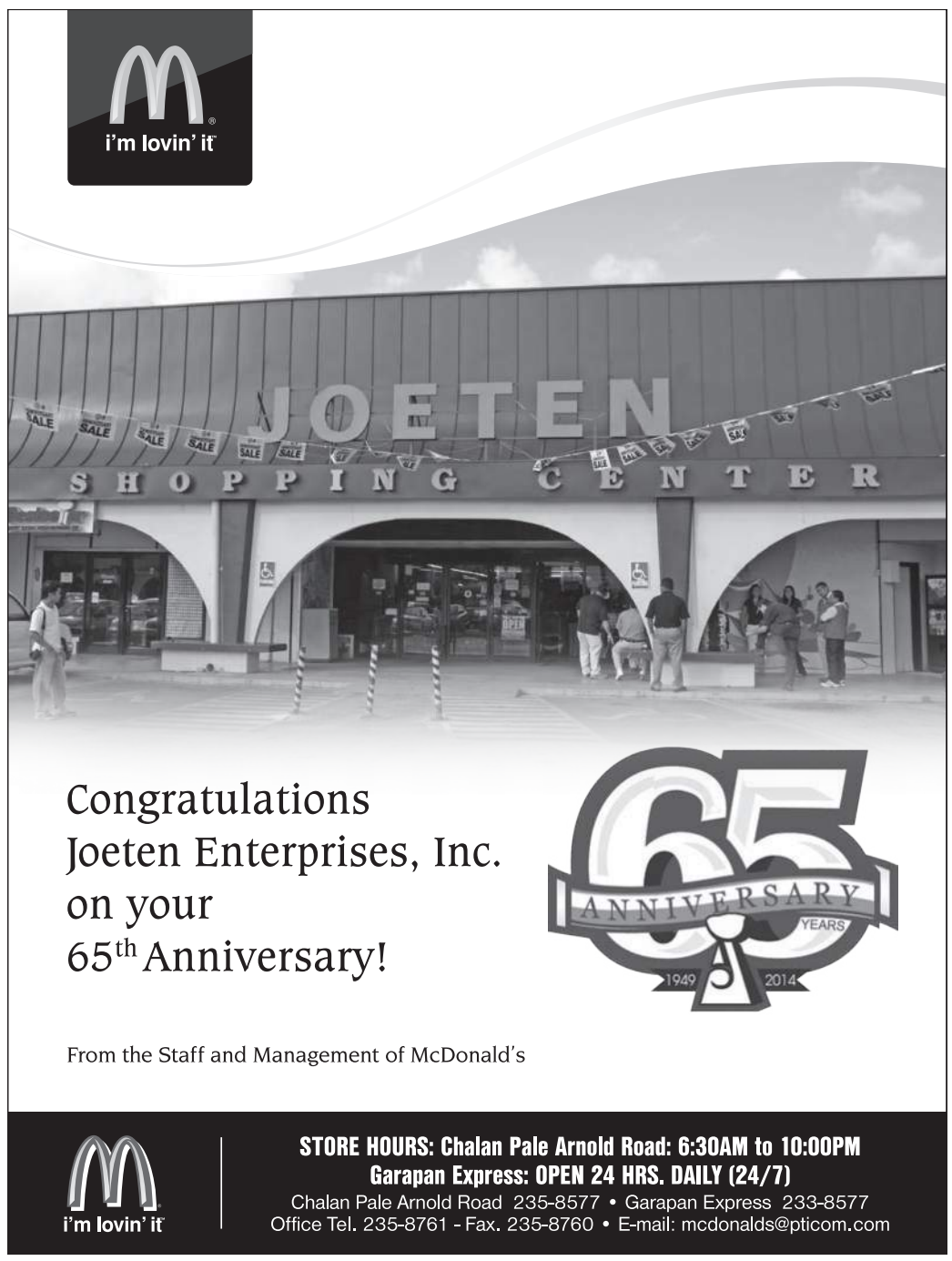
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Concurrent resolution on FY 2015 budget prefiled

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) prefiled yesterday a concurrent resolution to approve the CNMI government's total projected resources of $170 million, of which $134 million is available for appropriations, for fiscal year 2015.

Sablan prefiled House Concurrent Resolution 18-2 a day after the Ways and Means Committee met with Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and other finance officials to confirm the sources of funds and figures contained in Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposed fiscal year 2015 budget submitted to the Legislature on April 1.

The concurrent resolution, once adopted, shows the Legislature's approval of the projected resources available for appropriation in fiscal year 2015, which runs from Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2015.

The House is expected to take up the concurrent resolution next week.

It's already been over a month since the governor sent his proposed 2015 budget to the Legislature for review. The Ways and Means Committee will be calling in certain agencies for clarification on their proposed budget for 2015, before a budget bill is drafted and finalized for passage.

As expected, agencies have started airing their concerns about the governor's proposed budget for their agency or office, asking the Legislature to give them more money.

Larson, in a brief interview yesterday, said the increase in proposed budget from 2014 to 2015 was in essence going toward the retirement settlement trust fund and the government's health insurance premium.

She said the needed money for these two items in fact exceed the difference between this year and next year's proposed budget. The governor's proposed 2014 supplemental budget, which is expected to be sent to the Legislature any day now, will also go toward these two items alone. This early, some lawmakers have been eyeing portions of this for other programs and services such as payment to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Woman allegedly forcibly taken to psychiatric ward

A woman filed yesterday a $1.2 million lawsuit in federal court against the CNMI government and other co-defendants over her alleged forced removal from her house on Rota by a police officer and other persons and her detention in the psychiatric ward of the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan.

Kaye Christian filed the lawsuit through Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. counsels Jeanne H. Rayphand and Matthew Holley.

Aside from the CNMI government, Christian named as co-defendants the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., police officer Eusebio Manglona, Dr. Francois Claassens, CHC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña, Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero, and 10 unnamed co-defendants.

Christian is demanding $200,000 in compensatory damages for pain, suffering and emotional distress, and $1 million in punitive damages.

Christian also seeks a court order directing the CNMI government, CHC, Muña, and Deleon Guerrero to implement procedures to prevent the use of excessive force by police officers and health care personnel.

She asked the court to issue an order directing the CNMI government, CHC, Muña, and Deleon Guerrero to educate and train police officers and health care personnel about the Involuntary Commitment Act, the Patient's Rights Act, and conflict management and restraint procedures.

Christian wants the court to declare that the defendants violated her rights under the Patient's Rights Act.

She said such rights are free of chemical and physical restraint, ready access to a telephone, and a copy of all of the rights to which she was entitled during her stay at the Rota Health Center and at CHC on Saipan.

Rayphand and Holley stated in the complaint that police officer Manglona and 10 unnamed persons entered Christian's house without her consent on Dec. 31, 2013, at 1pm.

Without any provocation, Manglona allegedly grabbed Christian's arm, twisted her arm behind her, carried her down the stairs, and handcuffed her.

Manglona then allegedly handcuffed Christian to a stretcher and brought her against her will to the Rota Health Clinic.

At the clinic, Christian was allegedly handcuffed to a bed and Claassens then injected her with medicines and chemically restrained her against her will.

On Jan. 1, 2014, Christian was brought to Saipan where she was allegedly involuntarily committed to the psychiatric ward at CHC. Rayphand and Holley said that Christian was released from the ward on Jan. 3, 2014.

At CHC, Christian was allegedly denied her right to use a telephone.

The lawyers disclosed that between Dec. 18 and 20, 2011, Christian was also involuntarily detained at the Rota Health Center, where she was isolated and restrained with handcuffs for hours and without bathroom privileges.

The complaint did not specifically mention why Christian had to be transported to the psychiatric ward and isolated at the Rota Health Center. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FATE

From Page 1

tration of others in the community that do not support casinos on Saipan but the commission is not the proper venue to air these concerns because the commission's mandate is to review the casino applications now before them.

"We're beyond that," he said in an interview after the meeting. "We're charged with and mandated to review these [applications], the responsibility to make the proper decision on these applications but not to judge whether casino is good for us or not good for us."

Igisomar and fellow Lottery Commission member Larrisa Larson confided that commission members have been bombarded with a lot of inquiries and comments during office hours and beyond about casino operations.

They said they welcome peoples' expert opinion—"what it is you think I might want to look at, what you think are the areas of significant use for our commissioners as we review this."

The Lottery Commission's May 5 meeting coincides with the deadline for the two casino applicants to turn in their business plans and deposit $30 million each in an escrow account, to be further considered in the process.

The two applicants—announced on April 21 by press secretary Angel Demapan—are Marianas Stars Entertainment, and Best Sunshine International Ltd.

Igisomar and Larson said the commission not only formally accepted the Saipan casino applications but they also ratified the RFPs for the needed services of experts in the casino industry during the executive session.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos was not at the commission meeting yesterday.

The scheduled 1:30pm meeting began at 1:45pm, with four commission members—Igisomar as Commerce secretary, Larson as Finance secretary, Gil Birnbrich representing the attorney general, and Thomas Manglona representing the Department of Public Safety commissioner.

Larson made a motion to amend the published agenda to include a public comment period and a discussion of "other matters." The motion was adopted.

Former Senate president Juan Demapan was the only one who made a public comment, questioning the Lottery Commission members' qualifications and experience, as well as their integrity.

"Number one, each one of you guys works immediately under the governor. Number two, each one of you has no casino experience professionally and also hotel operations experience, that's the problem," Demapan said.

He believes that the two RFPs—one for a casino resort developer law enforcement review and another for a casino resort development consultant services—were supposed to be for the yet-to-be created Casino Gaming Commission, in consultation with the Lottery Commission.

When no one else stood up to speak during the public comment period, Demapan asked the Lottery Commission to allow him to raise additional concerns. The panel accepted his request.

Demapan asked where the attorney general will stand if someone sues the Lottery Commission, of which the attorney general or his representative is a member, for any of its decision.

Igisomar thanked Demapan for his comments.

Less than a dozen members of the public were present at the meeting. They included Cario Hon, chief executive officer of Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., the new owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and is part-owner of Marianas Stars Entertainment, which is one of the two Saipan casino applicants. Hon was accompanied by two individuals, including their legal counsel.

Barely 10 minutes after the meeting started, the commission went into an executive session at 1:55pm.

After the meeting, which ended at 2:55pm, Igisomar and Larson said the Lottery Commission confirmed the receipt of the $2 million in nonrefundable application fees.

The two commissioners clarified that the decision on the two applications now rests with the Lottery Commission. They said they are devoting time and effort to follow the law's mandate.

"Let me put it this way. … There's a policy decision already. There's a casino [law]. The Lottery Commission is mandated to review the applications, and that is our job. …It is our job to make sure that we get proper guidance to assist in making the best decision, whether to approve or disapprove the application, that's it," he said.

As to the lone public comment questioning the commissioners' integrity and qualification, Igisomar said each commissioner as Cabinet members were appointed by the governor and confirmed by senators to represent the CNMI people.

He said the commission will comply with the law's mandate to review and decide on the applications as best as they can, using the resources available to them, including the experts that will be hired.

Igisomar and Larson said the commission will also do its best to meet the June 19 deadline to decide on the applications.

They reiterated that the $2 million nonrefundable application fees paid by the applicants will be used for application review and investigations and for the operation of the Casino Gaming Commission.

The funds that will be used to pay retirees' deferred 25-percent pension will come from the $30 million advance license fee paid by the applicant that will be granted an exclusive casino license.

CRIMINAL

From Page 1

services.

OPA legal counsel and assistant attorney general George L. Hasselback filed the information in Superior Court at 3:31pm.

Fitial will be arraigned today, Friday, at 9:30am.

Hasselback stated in the information that on Jan. 8, 2010, Fitial commanded or requested law enforcement officers to allow a prisoner to depart from custody, without due process and in direct violation of a standing court order.

The OPA counsel was referring to the alleged unauthorized release of a Chinese woman, who was at the time a federal inmate, to give him a massage at his residence in the wee hours of the night.

Hasselback said Fitial conspired with law enforcement officers to allow the prisoner to depart from custody.

Hasselback said that on Oct. 20, 2010, Fitial participated in the planning, formation, and execution of a business contract in the name of the CNMI, the other party being a business entity owned and/or operated by a close personal acquaintance.

The OPA counsel was referring to the award of a sole-source ARRA management contract worth almost $400,000 to former Commerce secretary Michael J. Ada's Integrated Professional Solutions LLC.

Hasselback said that between Aug. 3 and 4, 2012, Fitial conspired with one or more management-level persons within the Department of Public Safety, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and other agencies of the CNMI government to provide an armed escort for Buckingham.

He alleged that the escort was provided for the purpose of taking Buckingham from his house to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, through local and federal security checkpoints, to ensure that Buckingham was shielded from being served a penal summons.

Hasselback said the armed escort used several public employees driving public vehicles, being compensated pursuant to their employment using public funds.

Hasselback said Fitial, as then governor, used his influence and position to conspire with one or more persons so see that the escort services were provided to Buckingham.

The OPA counsel said those escort services have a value of at least $250 but less than $20,000.

Fitial made his initial appearance in court on Wednesday afternoon to answer the charges. At the hearing, Hasselback disclosed that he would file the formal charges yesterday.

Fitial resigned as governor on Feb. 20, 2013. The following day, he and his wife Josie left the CNMI and subsequently stayed in the Philippines. He returned to Saipan from the Philippines on Saturday, four days before his court appearance.

Fitial will fly back to the Philippines on Wednesday to continue his medical therapy.

REBATES

From Page 1

Larson calls on community members to be patient until the checks are ready for release but said Finance has been working with Bank of Saipan and Express Financial to allow qualified taxpayers to borrow against their expected tax refunds and rebates if they need their money for immediate reasons, or before Finance's official release of checks.

"We're not ready at this point to release [checks] to anyone," Larson told *Saipan Tribune*, before the start of the Lottery Commission's first official meeting to discuss two Saipan casino applications yesterday afternoon.

As of yesterday, the preliminary 2013 refund checks estimated for release is $1.17 million. Larson released this specific data after the Lottery Commission's meeting, when data became available.

The child tax credit checks typically total between $5 million and $6 million, with the first batch normally at $4 million.

The rest—estimated at $3 million to $4 million—is for rebate checks.

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer, while rebate is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision in the law.

When the CNMI economy was at its peak, the annual number of taxpayers would exceed 10,000.

May 4 to 10 is CNMI Correctional Officers Week

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider jointly declared yesterday the week of May 4 to 10 as CNMI Correctional Officers Week during a proclamation signing at the Department of Corrections Adult Correctional Facility in Susupe.

Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas said that correctional officers play a vital role in providing effective and efficient correctional services and programs to inmates and the community.

"We safeguard the public, assuring no disturbances and unrest occur in the facility, that our facility meets their security needs and are treated humanely," Mafnas said.

The Corrections chief said that correctional officers work under demanding circumstances and face danger in their daily lives.

"They are constantly exposed to potential harm, risking their lives while ensuring the public's safety and continuing to perform their duties on a daily basis in the most professional and dedicated manner," he said.

Inos said he recognizes the contributions made by correctional officers and honor the work they do.

"We call upon all citizens to pay special tribute to these men and women who serve the CNMI faithfully over the years," he added.

Inos noted that correction officers often don't receive the recognition they deserve, so it's appropriate that the public honor the contributions and accomplishments made by the men and women of DOC.

"The significant thing about this announcement that throughout this week they will review the status of the consent decree," Inos said.

"Everyone should join and commemorate the correctional officers' special week. I thank them for being a part of this community and protecting the community," he added.

Mafnas noted that they will be taking part in the hearing for the lifting of the consent decree at the U.S District Court on May 15. According to him, the lifting of the consent decree is significant to the department.

Inos also thanked DOC officers for fulfilling the requirements that goes with the facility and its operations.

President Ronald Reagan signed Proclamation 5187 in 1984, creating a "National Correctional Officers' Week" and that the first full week of May has since been recognized as National Correctional Officers' Week to honor the work of correctional officers nationwide.

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Dynasty asked for more info on Kastiyu resort, lease extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Even as it describes the proposals as "very ambitious," the Department of Public Lands is now asking Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino to provide a detailed development plan and other information about three proposed undertakings—a mega-resort in Kastiyu, extension of their 25-year land lease for a water park, and to add 400 rooms to Dynasty, as well as a lease of a portion of Tachogna Beach for tourism activities.

Pushing for these development plans is Tinian Dynasty's new owner, Hong Kong-based Mega Stars Ltd., which, months later, would become part owner of a new firm that is applying for a license to develop a $2-billion casino resort on Saipan.

But if it's any consolation, DPL seems to be inclined now on a sole-source lease agreement rather than issue a request for proposal for the Kastiyu land, provided that Tinian Dynasty/Mega Stars submit a "detailed development plan, business plan, time schedule for the commencement and completion of the project," among other things.

DPL provided Tinian Dynasty with an outline of a "required scope of work for single sourcing of project on public land," instead of asking Tinian Dynasty to wait for an RFP to be released, if any.

Tenorio said the outline for a scope of work, if submitted, will help DPL complete its review and due diligence with respect to Tinian Dynasty's project.

This comes weeks after Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and the Tinian Municipal Council asked DPL to negotiate a sole-source lease agreement with Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. to develop the Kastiyu area.

DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio responded on April 28 to Tinian Dynasty general manager Tom Liu's Jan. 15 letter, seeking more information about their proposals.

"Let me say that I find your various proposals to be very ambitious, and as such they will also require a great deal of planning effort on the part of TDH and Casino and its new partners for your proposal to ultimately become a reality," Tenorio said in his three-page letter to Liu.

Tenorio said while Liu provided some preliminary information with respect to their plan to use public lands on Tinian, DPL—as a matter of policy—"will want to go further and request more information" from Tinian Dynasty "in order for my and the governor's office to properly review your plans aimed at eventually reaching a decision on how best to accommodate your respective plans…"

Expanded Dynasty

Dynasty wants to renew its 25-year land lease plus 15-year extension on a public land of approximately 46,675.60 square meters.

That land lease was executed on March 1, 1996, between Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. and the CNMI.

Liu, in his letter to DPL, said the plan is to build a word-class water theme park and expand the existing 412-room Dynasty to add 400 rooms.

Tenorio, in his letter to Liu on Monday, invites Liu for further discussion on the proposed lease extension.

The DPL secretary also wants further discussion on Dynasty's plan to lease a portion of Tachogna Beach.

Dynasty wants to lease some 8,334 square meters of land at Tachogna Beach to develop a beach center to include a bar and restaurant, a beach volleyball pit, a barbecue area with cultural show stage and seating area, and a concession block for vendors to sell souvenirs.

The casino owner also plans to repair and upgrade the existing toilets that it offers to manage.

Mega-resort in Kastiyu

Tenorio said the one area that will involve a lot of Tinian Dynasty's effort is a proposed mega-resort in Kastiyu, a scenic Tinian area atop Carolinas Plateau.

The Puntan Kastiyu project alone is estimated at $200 million inclusive of a six-star hotel, 36-hole championship golf courses, and a shopping mall.

Dynasty owner Mega Stars wants to lease some 482 hectares of land in Kastiyu to develop what it describes as a "dream resort named Tinian Cliff."

The resort, according to Dynasty, will include 36-hole championship golf courses, one six-star hotel, one five-star hotel, villas, a wedding chapel, a memorial and cultural center, a horse-riding trail, a shopping mall, restaurants and bars, and other infrastructure and amenities.

"Mega Stars truly believes Tinian has the potential to be a well-known resort destination in the Marianas. To make it a reality, they need the CNMI government's cooperation and support in granting the needed land area to develop the island. These projects will provide job opportunities for workers…" Liu said.

Tenorio, in response, said the Kastiyu development proposal "will have to be described in more detail with regards to actual structures and the utilization of this large tract of land."

DPL gave Tinian Dynasty an outline of a "scope of work" needed for their proposal.

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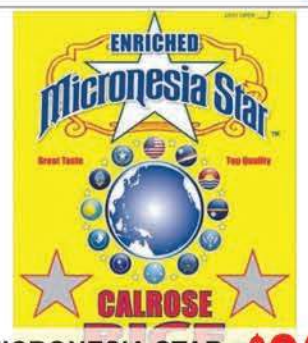

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific's general manager James Nelson, fourth from left, donates $1,000 to the 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Computer Services/Ideal Signs, Commonwealth Cancer Association board members, and Marianas March Against Cancer committee take a group photo in front of SCS office on Beach Road in Garapan.

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Five more sponsors sign up for MMAC

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five companies have jumped into the sponsors bandwagon for the Commonwealth Cancer Association's signature fundraising event of the year.

DFS Saipan, Ltd. and GPPC Inc. have signed up as title sponsors, while Docomo Pacific and Saipan Computer Services/Ideal Signs are major sponsors for the 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer.

DFS Saipan and GPPC Inc. both donated $3,000 to the MMAC.

DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan Pierce said that DFS is proud to have been a title sponsor for the MMAC since its inception.

"We are not immune from the terrible impact cancer has had on people and their families. Over the years, we have lost valued members of our team or family members to various types of cancers," Pierce said. "Our community is blessed with this hardworking organization to do what we can to hopefully eradicate this disease in our lifetime."

The 2014 MMAC organizing committee is happy and grateful for the sponsorship that DFS has contributed to the fight against cancer.

"The 2014 MMAC committee extends its heartfelt gratitude to DFS Saipan, Ltd. for their continuous support of the MMAC," 2014 MMAC overall committee chair Manny Borja said.

"We congratulate them on becoming our newest title sponsor; the most prestigious level of sponsorship available. They've been a strong supporter in the fight against cancer for over a decade and we thank them for that," he added.

Saipan Computer Services/Ideal Signs, Docomo Pacific, and First Hawaiian Bank are major sponsors for this years 2014 MMAC—all donating $1,000.

Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson said that there are a myriad of fundraising events throughout the year but the MMAC "is one that touches us in one way or another because most of us know someone who has left us because of this deadly disease."

"Some are fortunate to survive and we are even more fortunate to still have them among us. We all must do whatever we can to help find a cure for cancer," Nelson said.

"The battle against cancer is a tremendous undertaking, and not one person or small group can hope to take it on alone. We're here today to take a step forward as one community with one journey," Borja said.

This year's MMAC title sponsors are Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., GPPC, Island Apparel, IT&E, Joeten Daidai Foundation, *Marianas Variety*, Sorensen Media Group, and Take Care/FHP.

Its major sponsors are Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, First Hawaiian Bank, IP&E, McDonald's of Saipan, Precision Medical Imaging, Saint Michael's Medical Response, Saipan Mayor's Office, Traders Insurance Co., Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Xerox Corp.

The 2014 MMAC event starts tonight from 5:30am to Saturday at 6am.

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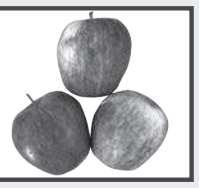

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Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 87

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Obama returns from Asia with a mixed bag

Now that President Barack Obama has returned from a weeklong trip to Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and the Philippines, it's time to assess what he achieved.

He traveled there to underscore his 2-year-old "pivot to Asia" policy, part of which recognizes the growing weight of Asian countries in terms of two-way trade and investment opportunities for the United States. As part of that focus, Mr. Obama should pay most attention to U.S.-Chinese relations, given the two countries' sales to and investments in each other and given America's multi-trillion-dollar debt to China.

The fact that he went to four other countries, including China rivals Japan and South Korea, is an ambivalent "plus," although Mr. Obama has been assiduous and realistic in his attention to China and its leaders. One of his objectives was to promote the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade deal which would involve seven Asian and five North and South American nations. If approved by the Senate, a doubtful prospect, it would reduce tariff barriers in the participant nations. Whether it is or is not to America's advantage depends on who agrees to what, a still-opaque calculation. Obama made no visible progress on the pact during this trip, unless private talks achieved results that will be revealed later.

The president handed out some gifts along the way, however. To Japan he pledged U.S. support in its dispute with China over some uninhabited islands in the East China Sea that China and Japan both claim. In South Korea he stood alongside a president and a government being severely criticized for the loss of a ferry boat with hundreds of passengers. In Malaysia he soothed a government that has dealt ineptly with the disappearance of Flight 370 and its 200-plus passengers. In the Philippines, Obama signed a 10-year agreement allowing for increased U.S. military equipment, training and presence there.

Whether the trip was worth it depends as much on what Obama gave away as what he received.

The U.S. guarantee of the Japanese position on the disputed islands may pose problems down the road. The wise U.S. course is right in the middle, urging negotiations by China and Japan. The value to the United States of more access to Philippine bases, as they also quarrel with the Chinese, is also dubious. And, as far as his consoling the South Koreans and Malaysians, he didn't need to be there to do that.

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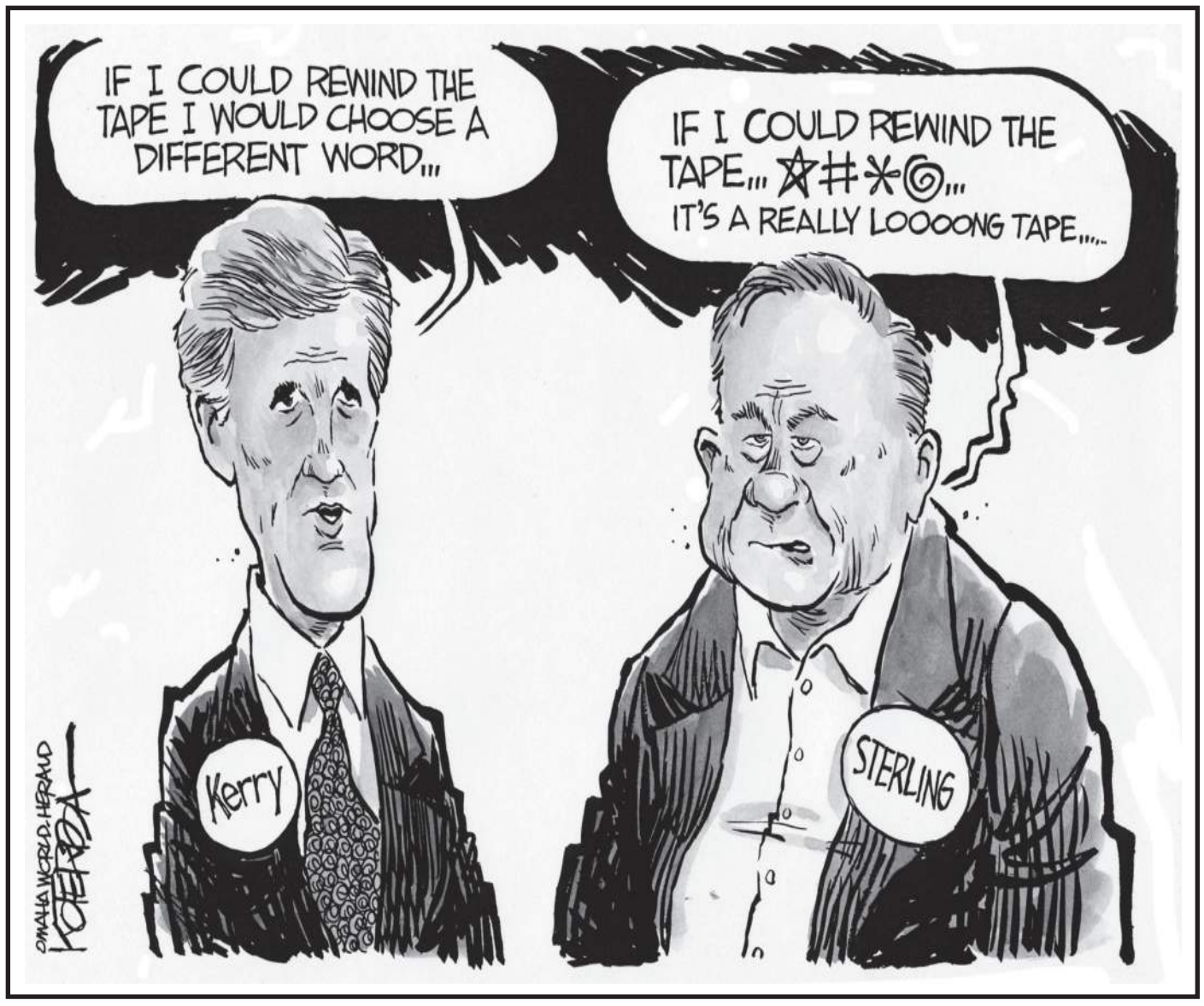
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Obama's Asian defense moves

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

I am not a totally serious columnist particularly in ideological matters. Obtuse and opinionated, I stand guilty as accused, but I have no cognitive beef to sell. I am, however, serious this time about President Obama's defensive moves in his recent Asian trip. His pivot turn strategy to move military attention to the Pacific Far East has not convince the privatized sector of the Pentagon as profitable since it does not expand the profit margin but reduces it, unless of course we keep Japan, SoKor, Taiwan, and the Philippines buying products of our military-industrial complex.

I am older than Barack, and am also a resident of military-dependent Hawaii, so I have no compulsion to genuflect toward my half-Kenyan brother, though I defer to him as the President of my country. Born Malay brown, beautifully situated in the meridian of the skin color spectrum, I am also not inclined to make judgments on the basis of skin color. I had lived in Chicago, and briefly made the Nairobi airport on a stopover to Lusaka after I picked up malaria in Nigeria, so Obama and I had inhaled the same air. He'll just be "Bro," as island males endearingly address each other.

A contrast between Xi Jinping's European tour and Obama's Asian trip was the fact that China had only one thing to offer—trade. Business contracts were signed right and left not only to open EU to Chinese investments but also to encourage member nations to continue bilateral trade, and invite them to China's culture much the same way as China invited itself to the rest of the world. It was a masterful orchestration of foreign policy formulation without mentioning the word.

In contrast, Obama was all foreign policy talk, probably playing more to his domestic audience who wanted him to display some traditional gringo machismo in foreign policy, perceived to be weak in his administration. Trade was not a major issue since Uncle Sam already dominates three of the four markets visited.

He started in Japan, the surrogate quality miniature manufacturers and accountants to Wall Streets' darlings. Tokyo played coy to U.S. interest in the Korean and Vietnam wars, performing a materials support role while rebuilding its own geographical strength and internal capability. Its emergence after WWII is short of miraculous except that the U.S. used Japan's industry and exploited its seeming docile acquiescence to promote interests in the Western Pacific.

Obama wants the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement to move beyond its "beef" disagreements with Japan. He affirmed U.S. mutual defense treaty commitments on the Senkaku/Diaoyu Island territorial squabble, staying within legal accuracy, hoping that Shinzo Abe would reciprocate in kind on the TTP.

South Korea was forthright. It wanted Washington to stand firm with Hangul on the unoccupied islands of Dokdo/Takeshima claimed by Japan. The 1953 U.S.-Korea Alliance was "bought with blood" and took precedence. Obama did a diplomatic shuffle, reminding Japan to face up to its military atrocities in the region, focused on the DPRK danger, and dropped a sigh on the tragedy of MV *Sewol*'s sinking. The PM just resigned and President Park Geun-Hye was apologetically subdued and grieving. In any case, South Korea is *ipso facto* Pentagon territory.

Barack traveled next to MH370 country where the U.S. did not previously see eye-to-eye with the mercurial Mahathir bin Mohamad, MD, strongman for 22 years, who managed to keep a hefty trade volume, nonetheless. *Dato' Sri Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak,* Najib Razak, for short, famous for his premature cost-cutting announcement that MH370 crashed in the South Indian Ocean without a shred of evidence, was regal but subdued in his hosting, focusing on bilateral relations.

Bilateral relationship was the signed, sealed, and delivered act in the Philippines. The serendipitous eruption of Mt. Pinatubo hastened the U.S. military's exit from Subic Naval and Clark Air stations, then costing the Pentagon a bundle craftily negotiated by Ferdinand Marcos. U.S. presence also enflamed local dissent but assets were scattered all over the archipelago, including covert operations in Mindanao, so the treaty Obama entered into with Noynoy Aquino was simply a formalization of what is already on the ground, save this time it runs overtly from Philippine military installations.

But Barack, like John Kerry's Defense grandstanding, takes the form of preaching on what the U.S. thinks others *ought* to be doing, or threaten them with sanctions (today's hellfire damnation) if they keep doing what they are doing. Neither has been effective.

EU will follow U.S. sanctions against Russia but will water it down. The Russian ruble value will decline but Putin will look east to China and reignite a partnership long overdue in remaking. The oligarchs of EU and the U.S. will learn to live unostentatiously, their political entities and military sizes shrinking to more realistic scope. Washington will keep its pulpit, but like its bellicose screeching on Crimea and Ukraine, it will be summarily ignored.

Longevity

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

All right, you Saipan jet-setters, let's see if you can match this itinerary for May through September: Turkey, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Poland, the U.K., France, Italy, Ukraine, Canada, and the United States.

That's the schedule for Aerosmith's 2014 "Let Rock Rule" tour.

As impressive as the itinerary is, the longevity of this famous rock 'n' roll band merits mention. Aerosmith started 44 years ago, in 1970, in Boston. Its frontman and a founding member, Steven Tyler, 66, is famous for being one of the most energetic performers under the limelight.

While I was reading Aerosmith's 2014 tour schedule and reflecting on their longevity, I decided to list a few other big names that have enjoyed long-running success. This isn't a comprehensive survey of the matter, but, instead, just a random walk.

Here's one rock 'n' roll act that has surpassed the half-century mark: The Rolling Stones. An English band, they were formed in 1962. Their frontman and a founding member, Mick Jagger, will turn 71 in July.

And where will he be in July? On tour, of course. At least for the first part of the month.

Yes, the Stones are also rolling around the world, and some of the upcoming points on their 2014 tour are Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Israel, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Austria, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Australia, and New Zealand. I think they've been playing in Asia recently.

Here's another famous name from England that is still going strong: Elton John, who is 67.

If you've got any gray hair and would like a parlor game to keep you busy before somebody hauls out the Pictionary and Mad Libs, then try to list all of his hits.

What a long list it is. He has tallied 56 Top 40 hits. He's also sold over 250 million records. I sure remember that in the '70s the radio was always buzzing with his songs. His 2014 tour schedule spans much of western Europe and the U.S.

Having already made my point about globe-trotting scale in the case of Aerosmith and the Rolling Stones, I'll spare you more such details. I think that all of the musicians I'm mentioning have websites that feature tour information.

Meanwhile, New York native Billy Joel, 64, is touring. Upcoming performances for the year are slated for the U.S. and Canada. This piano man is no stranger to the Top 40, having put 33 songs there over the years, the first one in 1973.

And now for some tropical sunshine: Saipan, like many nooks in the tropics, harbors many Jimmy Buffett fans. Buffett, 67, is on tour in the U.S.

Buffett is also a pilot and a writer, with a cool-guy persona that attracts legions of fans.

He scraped along for a long time before his song *Margaritaville* became famous in 1977.

Here's something that may interest you: In 1997, Buffett put on a musical show based on a novel by Herman Wouk called Don't Stop the Carnival. It's about a guy doing business, or trying to, on a tropical island, and it seems like a slice of life on Saipan, although it was really about the Caribbean.

Anyway, of the big stars on tour, the most senior names I can think of are country stars, not rock stars. For example, Merle Haggard, 77, has a busy tour schedule in the U.S. for the remainder of this year.

When you think of country music you probably think of Tennessee or Texas, which is fair enough. But California played a role, too. That's where the town of Bakersfield is, a hub for oilmen, cowboys, and farmers. It has seen its share of achy-breaky hard times, generating suitably honky-tonk tunes, including Haggard's.

Of course, when it comes to country, it doesn't get any more country than Willie Nelson. Born in Texas, he turned 81 just this week, and, yes, he's still touring, with appearances inked in the U.S. for the rest of 2014.

I've only mentioned seven stars here, but they sure cover a lot of years, a lot of ground, and a lot of culture. We're lucky to have them: so here's to longevity! That's one thing the cowboys, the city slickers, and even the beach bums (hooray) can certainly agree on.

Smiles vs reality check

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Wherever you go, you'd notice the quick shift in the mood of politicians (incumbents, "has-been," and neophytes). And it's only the fickle and balmy months of April and May that is still ways off the hot iron summer that begins in June.

Earlier, they were smiling ear-to-ear, even drooling. Now they begin to see the reality of likely grand defeat in November. Smiles slip into a very unsettling fear!

Indeed, fear is a powerfully effective teacher that even grades and tests mettle on incredibly sharp curves. Perhaps it's just as appropriate a time to pull out the old game plan to take an ocular review of your failures. Hell, I'd be worried sick too with one too many failed promises. That sense of securing re-election has begun to slip quicker than one could tighten handgrips.

Now, if you're resigned to defeat, it's likely you'd be returning to the villages to stand shoulder to shoulder with folks you've failed to represent with integrity. So if you're out looking for good news or not-so-bad news, your fear of graveyard haunts is real. Trust me! Obviously, you'd be desperate to avoid the legacy of disorientation, weakness, mediocrity, incompetence, and misfeasance.

Understandably, your deeply troubling concerns must have kept you awake nights. From your standpoint, advancing the ball of securing re-election is a Johnny Come Lately. From our standpoint, we'd fight you tooth and nail to demonstrate with finality that we will not give away our principles and convictions. *No mas!* Your crisply frail and failed performance says it all.

Now you're gathering nervously in the horizon for that final sail into the sunset of a self-sealed political defeat. It isn't a tsunami headed your way but a rising tide deep and sufficiently powerful to drown the wary and unwary dimwits what lies ahead. Go ahead and make as much loot while you can before the sun takes a holiday and escorts your canoe to the permanence of "has been."

Well, the prospect for sound defeat grows despite the lame search for good news. I'm sure you could feel on your neck the hot breath of revenge and retribution hailing from, yes, "we the people" you've royally ignored. Should you be worried about it? Absolutely!

I mean the cost of living has gone up 20 percent while salaries remain stagnant for more than 20 years. Did you do anything about it? Isn't familial economic misery the unsolicited trophy you've placed on the backs of simple villagers yearning for leadership?

After your defeat, you would be standing next to ordinary folks seeking for jobs at the local Department of Labor. No worries! We're compassionate especially for the "walking dead."

Health cost vs income

A good number of regular employees and retirees have terminated their health insurance policies. Such deduction has literally taken out the wind of what's left in their paychecks. They end up going home with only their check stubs. It's family sustenance first, therefore the withdrawal.

Retirees are hardest hit when Gov. Eulogio Inos illegally cut pension pay by 25 percent. You add the 40-percent increase in health premiums for a total loss in income of some 65 percent. No wonder retirees, including regular employees with poverty income, had to end their health insurance policies.

How do they meet real family needs when the cost of living jumped by 20 percent while their income remains the same for over a decade? Guam's economy gained some 24 percent while ours the complete opposite!

The administration and Legislature were woefully mute as more folks pull out of the health insurance program. Reason? It means far less payment of employer's contribution (NMI government) on health for both retirees and employees. It must be a tactical silence to force Medicaid to enroll more recipients given that the program pays 100 percent of billable services. Woe!

It was a dilemma created by the local government to free itself of an obligation at the expense of retirees and employees. The next pit stop is hopeful entry and qualification into the Medicaid program.

Quick depletion of funds

In the interim, there's the Medicaid application process to which the number of prospective recipients now threaten depletion of funds. In other words, there would be more takers than what's available under the program.

If Medicaid funds run out as a result of the impending increase in recipients, would the local government be able to cough up some $6.5 million annually, if not more, to cover it? Shall we pass another hasty casino bill?

It would be a double flushing of employees and retirees out the health obligation of the local government, right? Isn't the health of our people an important item on your agenda?

If you think meeting the 25 percent of retirees' deferred pension pay is difficult, take a closer look at the colossal financial necessity that equally turns into another major fiscal challenge ahead. We were all smiles during initial receipt of more money for this program. Reality has set in and all smiles turn into frowns of constipation as we debate source of funds to cover this eventuality.

Imagine as families buckle down to deciding which obligation to pay or sacrifice each payday. Will it be power bills, food, loan for the first family home, family transportation, costly health bills, and other must-pay obligations?

Why am I spouting about these? You know the answer like the back of your hand!

This May Day, we need immigration reform

By EMILY TULLI
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

More than 100 years ago, America celebrated its first May Day, when hundreds of thousands of workers walked off their jobs and demanded better wages and working conditions.

Despite this page in our nation's history, every day in this country workers continue to be robbed in broad daylight, but the offenders go unpunished. Too often when immigrant workers seek their wages, they are threatened by their employer. The threat is simple but devastating: If you keep asking for your pay, I will report you to immigration authorities. These threats silence workers and allow bad employers to pocket workers' wages. For some employers, these threats turn into action, with employers using immigration agents to deport workers rather than pay them.

Lax enforcement of labor laws and a broken immigration system mean that our nation's worst employers get to lower their labor costs by threatening workers who demand their pay. In turn, they get a competitive advantage over good employers.

While this is a boon for bad employers, workers suffer. The economic stability of their families is shaken. Worse, deportations that come out of these situations rip families apart. Some anti-immigrant advocates take issue with unauthorized workers, believing that their lack of work authorization means they do not have basic workplace rights. But when you allow some workers to be taken advantage of, this tends to lower working conditions across the board, for citizens and noncitizens alike. Congress and President Obama ought to rectify the problem of exploiting unauthorized workers.

First, Republicans in the House of Representatives can do what the American people have called upon them to do and pass an immigration reform bill that prevents bad-apple employers from exploiting a broken immigration system. Last year, the Senate passed immigration reform legislation that had robust protections for workers, as does a bill introduced in the House of Representatives.

In addition, the president has full legal authority to take important steps to ensure that workers who face severe abuse on the job do not face immigration penalties simply for speaking out against these employers. The president and the Department of Homeland Security can do this by ensuring that Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers do not deport immigrants who have come to their attention simply because they have spoken out against abusive employers. The president can—and should—go a step further by providing all workers with freedom from fear of deportation.

Last, states could follow California's lead and pass bills that address the issue head-on. The California Legislature has enacted a package of bills that help protect workers against retaliation on the job and punish employers who engage in this form of retaliation. On this May Day, now is the time for legislators and the president to step up and take action.

Emily Tulli is the workers' rights policy attorney at the National Immigration Law Center. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive *magazine.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

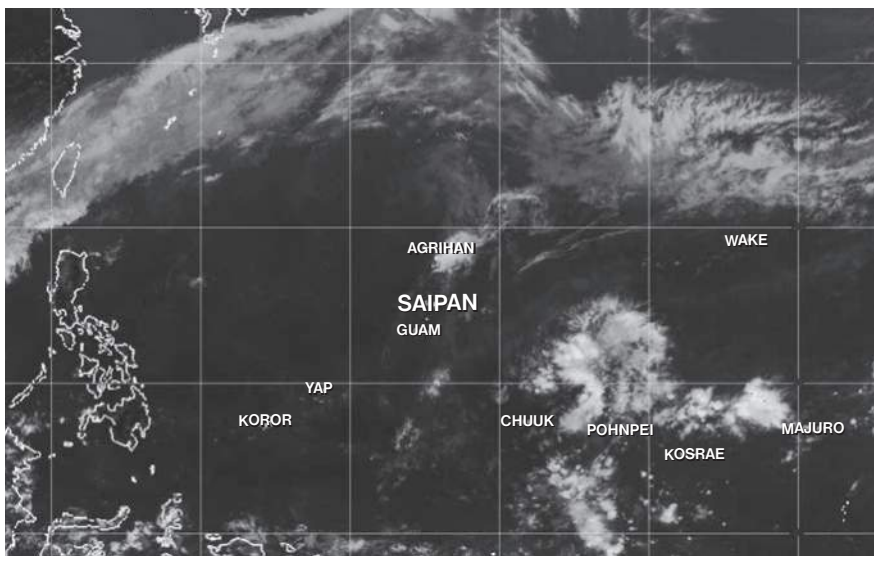
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲82	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲82	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼50
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼50
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲79	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼44
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲90	▼64
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲54	▼50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼50
Osaka	Sunny	▲75	▼58
Paris	Showers	▲62	▼47
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼44
Rome	Rain	▲65	▼55
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼50
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼53
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼46
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼59
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Tapah (06W) is centered 260 miles north-northwest of Pagan near 22N145E moving northwest at 14 mph with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 20N and 24N from 144E to 149E. For more information on Tropical Storm Tapah, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service on Guam under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Convergence into Tropical Storm Tapah is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near the Marianas between 18N and 20N from 145E to 147E. A nearly-stationary front curves southwestward from 25N180 to 22N170E to 22N160E. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and north of this boundary to beyond 25N. A surface trough extends northward across Pohnpei from 2N154E to 15N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found west of Pohnpei between 6N and 10N from 155E to 157E and between 10N and 15N from 154E to 160E and south of Pohnpei between the equator and 5N from 154E to 157E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Kosrae and near Majuro between 6N and 10N from 160E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:01 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Tuesday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:07 AM	9:16 PM
Saturday	8:57 AM	10:05 PM
Sunday	9:47 AM	10:52 PM
Monday	10:37 AM	11:36 PM
Tuesday	11:25 AM	

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	6:55pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	7:45pm	8:35pm	2, 6
UA5078	8:10pm	9:00pm	3

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	5:35pm	6:10pm	2, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	6:40pm	7:15pm	2, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11: 05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	10:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5038	5:35pm	7:15pm	2, 6 via Rota
UA5077	6:50pm	7:40pm	3

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	6:55pm	7:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	8:00pm	8:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:45am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5039	9:55am	6:25pm	7 via Guam
UA190/5038	9:55am	7:15pm	6 via Rota-Guam
UA190/5077	9:55am	7:40pm	3 via Guam
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/5038	10:25pm	7:15pm+1	1 via Rota-Guam
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/5038	11:30pm	7:15pm+1	5 via Rota-Guam

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

30th AG's Cup speech competition on Tinian today

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Six students representing six public and private schools in the CNMI will go head to head today in the 30th Annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition, which will begin at 8am at the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School cafeteria.

The student speakers are Mount Carmel School's Andrea Lazaro, Marianas High School's Matthew Lopez, Marianas Baptist Academy's Yui Ito, Saipan Southern High School's Katrina Cruz, Kagman High School's Lou Shrine Guevarra, and Tinian High School's Kyle Sanbergen.

According to the Office of the Attorney General, the topic the students' speeches will focus on is "the federal takeover of the Commonwealth's immigration system." Students will research the federal Consolidated Natural Resource Act that mandates the non-immigrant worker population in the CNMI to be phased out.

The speakers for the past month have been researching laws and requirements to formulate their 10-minute speech. The competitors are also expected to make their own recommendations on how the federal government should address the issue.

Sanbergen told *Saipan Tribune* that he appreciates the speech topic as a veteran competitor in the annual speech tilt.

"The topic for this year's AG's Cup is undoubtedly one of the most critical issues concerning the CNMI, if not the most heatedly discussed," he said. "I feel that this year's topic poses a really tough challenge, as it is a very complex issue with details so numerous in quantity that people tend to overlook them."

Fellow competitor Guevarra said the topic is something that needs to be urgently addressed.

"It breaks my heart knowing that families may be separated at the end of the year," she said.

She added that several of her classes and teammates have assisted her over the month in perfecting her presentation and syntax.

Mount Carmel School is this year's defending champion and the team to beat. The sole Catholic school on Saipan has been holding the perpetual trophy for 15 years now.

5 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged five Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Affected sites are DPW Channel Bridge, Hafadai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Sugar Dock, and Chalan Kanoa District 2 drainage. Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

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SAIPAN LOCATIONS: Gualo Rai, Chalan Piao, Paseo de Marianas, Garapan

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CNMI mock trial team going to nationals next week

»PSS makes last-minute ticket changes

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

This year's Mock Trial champions, Saipan Southern High School, will compete at the 31st National High School Mock Trial Competition that will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, on May 8-10.

The team of 10 students qualified for the state competition after successfully dethroning defending champion Mount Carmel School and besting other public and private schools.

The students representing the CNMI at the national mock trial tilt are Mikhail Alcantara, Katrina Cruz, Emily Rose Dewitt, Jin Pyo Jeon, Aaron Tiger Lee, Annika Matias, Christian Miller, Myoung Ki Oh, Junseo Park, and Tiara Villagomez.

The students will be accompanied by attorney-coaches Michael Sato and Claire Smith and SSHS teacher coach Frank Borja.

The Manta Ray team will be arguing the fictitious criminal case of the Estate of George Romero v. Ashley Williams. The plaintiff, Max Brooks, is working on behalf of Romero's estate and is claiming that Ashley Williams poisoned Romero. The defense argues that Romero's death was caused by the consumption of energy drinks and possible drug use. The CNMI team will be arguing this case with 46 other state team representatives.

According to team captain and senior student Cruz, the group practices four days a week and on Saturdays as well.

"It is hard to juggle so many things with school and other activities but it has taught me how to be organized and manage my time wisely," she said. Cruz will be graduating this year and said that she is anxious to deliver her final mock trial performance before leaving Saipan.

"We practiced and prepared really hard. I hope to make the CNMI proud," she added.

Fellow mock trial member DeWitt expressed similar sentiments. "We have less time to prepare and now we have to get used to the different ways of speaking because on Saipan we have different slangs."

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Mikhail Alcantara delivers his opening statement during an after-school practice at Saipan Southern High School as fellow team members look on.

Another team member, Alcantara, will be representing the CNMI in mock trial for the first time and told *Saipan Tribune* he is honored to have the opportunity to do so.

"This is my first time and there are a lot of expectations, but I am glad I could accomplish this early in my high school career," he said.

With the competition one week away and time being of the essence, teacher-coach Borja said that they have hit the ground running.

"We all have been working so hard and I am proud to see the amount of time and effort everyone is putting in to this team competition," he said.

Borja said the team will leave early on May 5 to acclimate to the environment so student competitors can compete at their best condition. The group is also scheduled to scrimmage with other national representatives before the competition and take educational tours of the city afterwards.

Attorney coach Sato said he is proud of the public school team, the first team he has personally coached in the CNMI Mock Trial competition. "I am proud of this team. They are exceptional students and are excellent in terms of their academic abilities, work ethic and dedication."

Sato said it is a privilege to work with the students and that he is tremendously proud to be a part of the team.

Saipan Tribune also recently learned that the Public School System made last-minute changes and are now only allowing eight students to go, after the 10-member team already prepared for the national event together.

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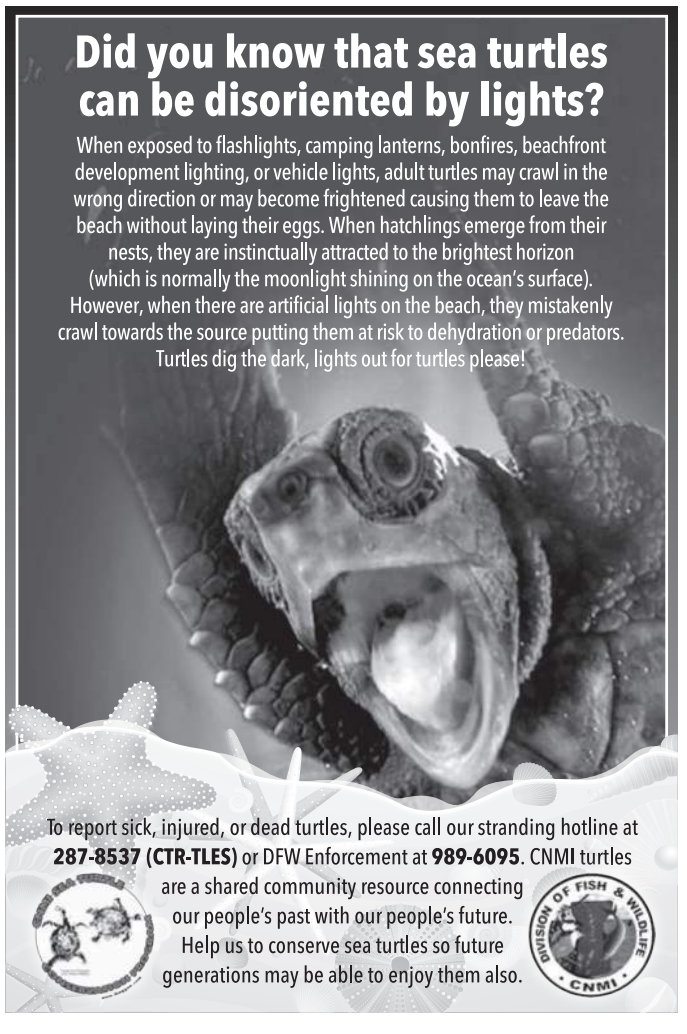
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DUE TO LOST, MISPLACED, OR DESTROYED DOCUMENTS:

PSS writes off $287K in 'unliquidated' travel advances

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After months of deliberation on recurring deficiencies in its annual audit, the Board of Education has voted to retire some $287,793 in unliquidated travel expenditures from previous years.

The decision was reached, according to board chair Herman T. Guerrero, after the board determined that all efforts have been explored yet still failed to address the concern.

The Public School System's yearly audit for the past 13 years indicated findings that included over $287,000 in travel costs that had not been reconciled in the system's records.

Glenn Muña, PSS associate commissioner for administrative services, told the board that the unaccounted travel costs covered the period from 1998 through 1999.

"PSS is faced with the issue of unliquidated travel advances in the amount of $287,793.73 that had accumulated since 1998 to 1999 during the old Wang System. The question presented was how to properly account for this amount of unliquidated travel when the submitted travel documents were received but either lost, misplaced, or destroyed. In order to be thorough and proceed in accordance with all laws and regulations, PSS sought advice from its auditors," said Muña in his letter to Guerrero dated April 24.

According to Muña, PSS auditors recommended that "if PSS knows that the travel actually occurred as authorized by the travel authorization and if the traveler affirms that all travel documents were submitted per regulations, then PSS is advised to zero out this unliquidated travel amount."

He said that PSS proceeded accordingly and steps are now in place to make sure that this situation never happens again.

For some years now, audits on PSS records have been accorded a qualified opinion. A qualified opinion report is issued when the auditor encounters one of two types of situations that do not comply with generally accepted accounting principles. Because of this, PSS kept getting categorized as not a low-risk auditee.

Guerrero said the board's decision to zero out the unliquidated travel advances is primarily to clean up the system's audit.

"We wanted to clean up our audits and this finding [unliquidated travel advances] keeps showing every year in our report. Basically, the retirement of this cost is to rectify that specific finding which has been there for many years," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Guerrero said the fiscal year 2013 audit for PSS is expected to be finalized and completed sometime in June or July.

He disclosed that the $287,000 travel cost deficiency was cited in the audit performance, not because travels were not performed by personnel but as a result of untimely posting and filing of travel vouchers that complete the documentation process.

Additionally, with the central office transferring to different locations in the last few years—from Marianas Business Plaza to the NMI Retirement Fund Building on Capital Hill to Lower Base—it seemed that some records have been misplaced or disposed of.

This is besides the fact that in those years, the government—including the PSS—has shifted its financial system from Wang to JD Edwards, which he said screwed up the migration of documents and records.

Guerrero said the "unliquidated" travel expenditures were written off after determining that travels were actually performed. He admitted that laxity in policy also caused the "long-time deficiency."

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Hilux Truck & Sport Compact Car Show at NMC Charter Day

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Planning Committee is inviting car enthusiasts to sign up and participate in the NMC Charter Day Car Show.

The car show will feature Hilux trucks as well as two-door and four-door sport compact cars.

Those interested in participating in the Car Show must submit a registration form by Monday, May 12, 2014, to the Student Center in Building J at the As Terlaje campus no later than 5pm. There is a $25 registration fee to enter vehicles in the competition.

Applications forms are available for download at www.marianas.edu, or they can be picked up at the NMC Student Center in Building J. For more information, contact the Charter Day Planning Chair Ervin Cruz at 234-5498 ext.6782 or via email at ervin.cruz@student.nmcnet.edu.

The NMC 2014 Charter Day Committee will be giving out the "Best in Show Award" for both categories: Hilux Truck and 2-door/4-door Sports Compact vehicles. At the end of the competition winners will receive a cash prize.

The NMC Charter Day celebration is an annual celebration that commemorates the establishment of the college in 1981. It is one of the largest celebrations in the CNMI and will include live entertainment, competitions, and other activities for the whole family. This year's event will take place on May 16, 2014, from 5pm to 10pm at NMC As Terlaje campus.

For more information about NMC Charter Day competitions, entertainment or vendor information, visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Car enthusiasts display their cars and trucks during last year's Hilux and Sport Compact Car Show at NMC's Charter Day event. This year's Charter Day will be on Friday, May 16, 2014 and will also feature the highly anticipated Marianas Idol competition, Battle of the Bands competition, and many other performances. NMC

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AGE (years)
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BOOSTER SEAT
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.
SEATBELT
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.
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New info on Guam buildup projects

PEARL HARBOR—New information about proposed projects in support of the military relocation to Guam is available on the Cultural Resources Information website at http://go.usa.gov/kZWG.

Comments on the Department of Defense's identification and evaluation of cultural resources within the area of potential effect and preliminary determination of eligibility of those resources for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be accepted for 45 calendar days after the project is posted.

The comment deadline for the Ground Support Equipment (GSE) Maintenance Shop, GSE Holding Shed, Aviation Armament Shop and Aviation Life Support Systems Shop (PA Memo #1) is June 16, 2014, Chamorro Standard Time.

Those without Internet access can obtain a hard copy from the Guam Historic Resources Division, located at 490 Chalan Palasyo, Agana Heights, 96910 (in the Department of Parks and Recreation Office). ***(USN)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to my Marine, Lance Cpl. Nicko S. Salem, for all the hard work and determinations he put up since coming from Corpus Christi, Texas. Salem, a native of Saipan recruited from RSS Guam, earned the title of company honor graduate for Company M aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego on April 25. We both miss home, Saipan. Love lots from Maria Victoria Sandmeier.

Public invited to join tonight's Marianas March Against Cancer

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer kicks off tonight, May 2, at the Hopwood Junior High School field, with 11 teams competing to post the highest number of laps around the oval.

The signature fundraising event of the non-profit group will start tonight at 5:30pm and end tomorrow morning, Saturday, at 6am, with various teams marching, running, and dancing around the track in honor of cancer survivors and victims.

Manny Borja, 2014 MMAC overall committee chairman, said: "We hope that the public will join us tonight, to honor our loved ones and help our teams raise funds for this important cause. Teams will also be selling food, hosting games, and selling goods to raise money for this event."

The event will start with the opening ceremony at 5:30pm, with opening prayers, posting of colors by the Manta Ray Battalion, and the singing of the U.S. and CNMI national anthems by 2013 CNMI's Got Talent winner Bernice Sabino, followed by an invocation by San Jose Parish pastor Fr. Rey Rosal.

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores will provide the opening remarks, followed by the survivor recognition ceremony with the presentation of medallions.

Saipan Senior Citizen Advisory Council president Maria Salinas will be the inspirational speaker, followed by the survivors' lap, when cancer survivors walk around the track once.

The luminary ceremony will follow at 6:30pm, then the parade of teams at 7pm.

Teams for tonight's 2014 MMAC include Mount Carmel School, Talabwoogh Star, Aschoscho, Pacific Islands Club, Kagman High School with Tan Holdings, Bodig, Joeten Dolphins, GOP Youth, MBA, IT&E with Saipan Southern High School, and Takecare FHP with Grace Christian Academy.

According to 2014 MMAC committee co-chair L.J. Castro, entertainment will begin at 7:30pm, coinciding with the start of the relay race.

Among the groups that are scheduled to provide non-stop entertainment are the Te Kanahau Nui Dancers of Saipan, Keynotes School of Music, Jesus is Lord Church, MHS PEP Band, Latte Vibes, Marvin Deleon Guerrero, Spirit Tug-O-War, Parker Yobei, and DJ Davy G.

Closing ceremonies will be at 5:30am that includes acknowledgements from the 2014 MMAC committee, presentation of awards for best batons and tent, most spirit, laps, and luminaries sold, awards for most money raised awards and a benediction from team Take Care FHP and GCA.

The event will have its "Walk of Life" at 6am.

Borja said the committee, sponsors, and teams have put in a lot of effort into making this event happen and they hope the community will take part.

"We hope the community come and honor our survivors and those who have passed from cancer," Borja said.

This year's MMAC title sponsors are Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., GPPC, Island Apparel, IT &E, Joeten Daidai Foundation, *Marianas Variety*, Sorensen Media Group, and Take Care/FHP. Its major sponsors are Brabu Pharmacy, Docomo Pacific, First Hawaiian Bank, IP&E, McDonald's of Saipan, Precision Medical Imaging, Saipan Mayor's Office, Traders Insurance Co., and Xerox Corp. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

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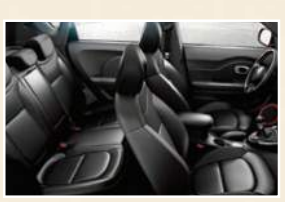

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Mariana Resort employee golf tourney on Sunday

JAYSON CAMACHO

File photo shows Mariana Resort & Spa's celebration of its 36th anniversary last April 26.

A little over a week after Mariana Resort & Spa celebrated its 36th anniversary with a '70s theme party last April 26, it will be the Marpi landmark's employees' turn to let their hair down and have fun this Sunday.

General manager Gloria Cavanagh said it's just fitting to treat their hardworking staff to an employee-only golf tournament on May 4 at the Mariana Country Club. A barbecue party at the same venue will follow it.

"It's our 36th anniversary and of course we did have a party to commemorate it last Saturday. But we need to celebrate also with our employees. Without them we can't run, we can't open. So we're doing our employee golf tournament this coming Sunday, which I believe will be the third one," Cavanagh said.

The double peoria one-round golf tournament will start at 12pm and will be followed by a barbecue party at 6pm. Aside from Mariana Resort employees, the family of staff are also invited to the shindig.

"The camaraderie you get from around the barbecue pit is priceless. So we're just going to bring the meat up and let the boys be boys. Let them barbecue with their beer and wine in hands and what have you," said Cavanagh.

It's also a great opportunity for Mariana Resort staff to mingle and get to know each other.

"We're separated not only by our schedule but we're also separated physically. One group is upstairs at the MCC [Marianas Country Club] and another works at F&B. There are also ones who work at the go-kart and ones that work at the spa. So we don't necessarily see each other except once a year."

Mariana Resort executive chef William Retardo said the upcoming employee appreciation party has all the staff at the hotel very excited and looking forward to Sunday.

"You have to have something for the staff. We need to have something for them, that's why we're having this tournament and party," he said.

Aside from a fun day at the greens and fellowship around the barbecue pit, Sunday will also serve as a perfect time for Mariana Resort to honor longtime employees.

"It's a good opportunity to recognize our longtime employees and there's someone here that's been here for 36 years, or since the hotel started," Cavanagh said.

At the other end of the spectrum, property manager Charlene Babauta, who only joined Mariana Resort recently, said she's excited because it will be her first time to take part in an employees' appreciation party.

Cavanagh said at the end of the day, the employees' appreciation party will celebrate staff and the fine work they've done all these years for the hotel.

"We just want to thank our employees. They've been doing an awesome job. When I first came here at the end of 2010 it was kind of depressing and then after the Japan tsunami in February 2011 it just became worse. There were already austerity measures in place where everyone was down to 32 hours. Now everything is in the up and up. We had an excellent 2013 and we're having an excellent 2014. So now, we can afford to say 'thank you.'" ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Mother's Day promo at Mariana Ocean

The house of soap in the northern end of the island will be offering discounts just in time for Mother's Day this coming May 11.

From May 1 to May 11, Mariana Ocean will be offering 10-percent off its entire inventory, which includes soap, bath salts, body lotions, body scrubs, lip butter, liquid body soap, body creams, and body and hair mist.

On top of the 10-percent discount on all products, Mariana Ocean will also offer free specialized gift-wrapping for purchases of $50 or more, according to Mariana Resort general manager Gloria Cavanagh.

"Our free gift-wrapping will not be your regular Christmas wrapping. It will be beautiful for the moms and we will use baskets, tissue paper, and ribbons," Cavanagh said. "So come over, stop by, and get something. You're mom will absolutely love it."

Mariana Resort owns Mariana Ocean, which opened with much fanfare last February with over 300 guests in attendance.

"We have had our struggles but we're very surprised that, of all the customers at Mariana Ocean, almost 30 percent are local. They drive up here to buy our products. Not many realize that the Garapan store is also open but its hours are only from 5pm to 11pm to capture the tourist market."

She said locals have come to appreciate the specialty scents their soap and other products bring to the table.

"They come up and not only on Saturdays and Sundays but they come up here on a daily basis. A lot of them buy it for gifts for off-island relatives and friends and for guests who are visiting them on the island."

Cavanagh said that Mariana Ocean will be augmenting its lineup of products soon.

"New products will be coming in a few months. New scents take time to develop since curing takes a month. One such product is goat's milk."

So far scents that have become a hit include noni, which was the first soap product that Mariana Resort ran out of due to high demand. Green tee, peppermint, and oatmeal are also up there in terms of popularity. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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70th Anniversary and Liberation Day to be separate events

It's no longer one big event but two separate celebrations.

"We have come to a decision that it is best to keep the two big events separate," said Vicente Camacho, organizing committee chairman of the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian.

After conferring with Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores and the other members of the committee, Camacho said that due to funding and time constraints, the 70th Commemoration and Liberation events will be celebrated as two separate events.

"The 70th Commemoration will be celebrated on June 15, 2014, to be held at the American Memorial Park. The event will kick off on June10, 2014, with the Military Historical and Valor Tours organized by [Marianas Visitors Authority] and Veterans Affairs for our invited off-island guests."

The 70th commemoration of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian will culminate in a parade on June 15, highlighted by the participation of the U.S. military to be followed by a memorial ceremony at the Court of Honor at the American Memorial Park.

There will also be entertainment shows at the amphitheater to regale visiting American and Japanese veterans and their families, tourists, and island residents.

Aside from entertainment, the public will also be able to buy refreshments at booths on the American Memorial Park grounds.

Meanwhile, the committee is asking the community for those who own World War II or any military vehicles and equipment to participate in the parade, sell or display artwork, and vendors who want to sell food. Although it's a military parade, all other interested organizations, associations, or groups are encouraged to participate.

The lineup of activities are:

- Tuesday, June10, Military Historical and Valor Tours
- Thursday, June 12, 70th Anniversary events on Tinian at the Air Operations Building, North Field
- Friday, June 13, Camp Fire Chat at American Memorial Park
- Friday, June 13, book signing at the American Memorial Park
- Saturday, June 14, Historical Conference, Saipan World Resort
- Military Parade followed by a memorial ceremony

These events are free and open to the public.

Meanwhile, the Liberation Day festivities will begin on June 20 at the Civic Center grounds with nightly entertainments and vendors.

The Liberation Day committee is encouraging the community to join by registering for the following events.

To register, call 670-234-6208.

- Queen candidates: Deadline is May 10, 2014
- Parade
- Float competition
- Entertainment
- Vendors

The success of these events rests with the patience and support of community members.

For questions, contact organizing committee chair Camacho at (670) 287-5351.

Meanwhile, community members interested to join either the Military Historical Tours or Valor Tours activities may contact MVA for tour arrangements at (670) 664-3200/3201. ***(70TH Anniversary Organizing Committee)***

BECQ cleanup brigade sets Tank Beach cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Tank Beach in Kagman this Saturday, May 3, 2014, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at Tank Beach at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

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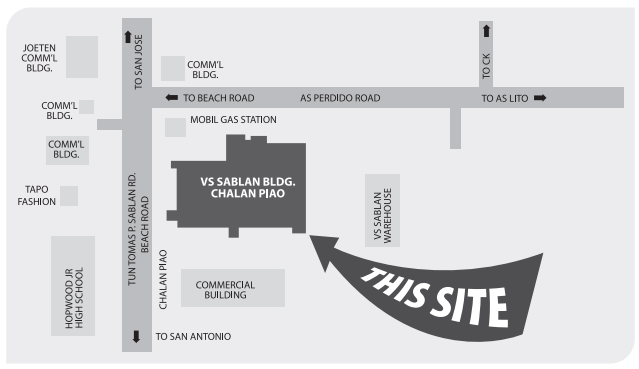

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Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-7500 Email Address: ben.sablan1994@gmail.com) or Call 234-2585/235-9020.

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture

In Appreciation

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Chairman Mark O. Rabauliman, DCCA Secretary, Ms. Laura T. Ogumoro, the staffs and management of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture – CCAC, we extend our utmost and sincere appreciation to all food vendors, artists, entertainers and performers both on island and off-island delegations from Southern California, Guam, Rota and Tinian most especially to our CNMI community for your untiring support in making our 33rd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival another success.

Our gratitude goes out to our stakeholder for their generosity and sacrifices, Delta Air Lines, IT&E, Tan Sui Lin Foundation, Mariana Visitors Authority, Bank of Guam, Matty's BBQ and Catering, Canton Restaurant, Coca Cola Beverage Company, Pacific Development Inc. and KKMP, who one way or another made this year's event possible through their financial support and/or in-kind donations.

Also, to our government partners, Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (BEH), Zoning, Coastal Resource Management, Office of the Mayor (Saipan), Tinian and Rota, 14th Rota Municipal Council, 18th Commonwealth Legislature, 1st Senatorial District, Division of Youth Services, Office of Aging, and all those who volunteers their time "Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Maase yan Ghillisoow.

Lastly, Congratulation to the following 2014 Flame Tree Arts Festival Raffle Winners:

Ticket #	Prize	Name	Contact #
553853	$75 Prepaid Card	Esther	286-6078
553879	$75 Prepaid Card	Frank – Box 506254	989-4614
553102	$75 Prepaid Card	Camacho D. Kobler	989-7660
553918	$75 Prepaid Card	Ofing Basa	989-8663
553872	$100 Prepaid Card	JM	234-6958
553768	$100 Prepaid Card	Joshua Hofschneider	287-5841
553866	$100 Prepaid Card	Joy Maratita	989-5653
553912	$100 Prepaid Card	Charlene	285-6382
552957	$100 Prepaid Card	Yuna Taisacan	285-0225
553113	Samsung N-400	Canton Rest.	234-7836
553130	Samsung N-400	Edel Mendiola	287-1870
553589	Samsung N-400	Teanne R.	287-9807
553801	$150 Prepaid Card	Zina C. Nekaifes	989-4849
553704	$150 Prepaid Card	Theresita Saures	989-4849
553219	$150 Prepaid Card	F-3 Tropical Chill	288-2242
553884	$150 Prepaid Card	Vivian Sablan	
553138	$150 Prepaid Card	Jay Rideb	285-1692
553957	Samsung Galaxy Fascinate	Priscilla JP	287-1870
553129	HTC One Smart Phone	Edel Mendiola	287-1870
552947	Round Trip Ticket (USA)	Jose Songsong	788-3849
553581	Round Trip Ticket (USA)	Victor Champ	285-2060 288-5895

/S/ Angel S. Hocog
Executive Director, CCAC

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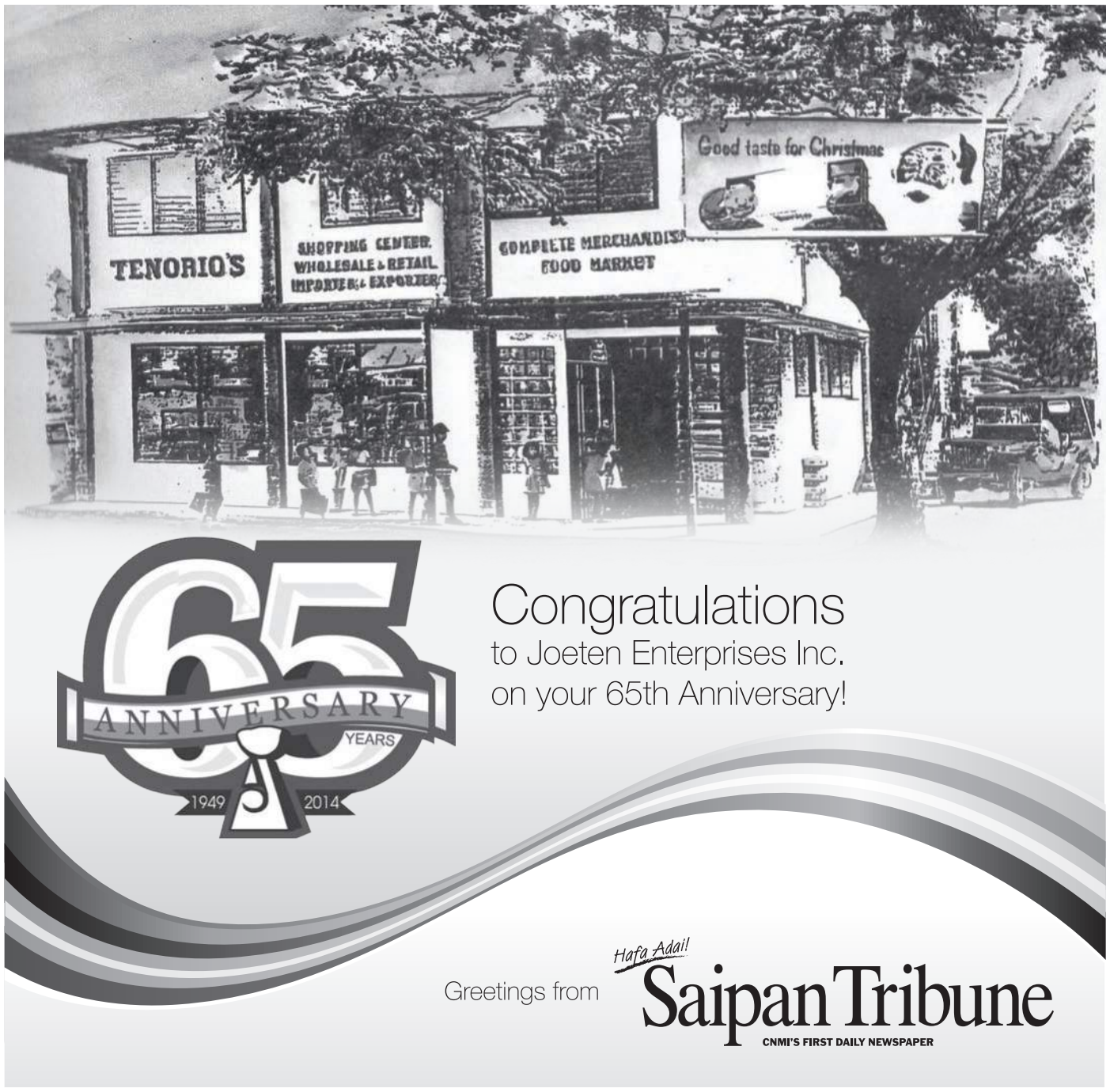


Spring financial aid to NMTI remains pending at SHEFA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Financial assistance for scholars of the Northern Marianas Trade Institute remains pending to date even as the spring 2014 semester is about to close.

This is primarily due to the yet-to-be-approved policy of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, which, if adopted, would specifically cater to vocational and trade institute students who are eligible to apply and avail of the program's financial assistance.

SHEFA board chair Josephine Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that checks for NMTI scholars for the spring semester will remain on hold pending the adoption of SHEFA's amended rules and regulations.

Thirty NMTI students applied for financial awards this semester. Of this number, 25 were denied while two applications are pending final approval.

SHEFA provides $1,000 in financial aid to NMTI scholars per term and the first and last checks awarded were in 2010.

"The process was delayed because we need to come up with a guideline for the trade school. That's why we're pushing for a draft so we can deliberate at our next meeting," said Sablan.

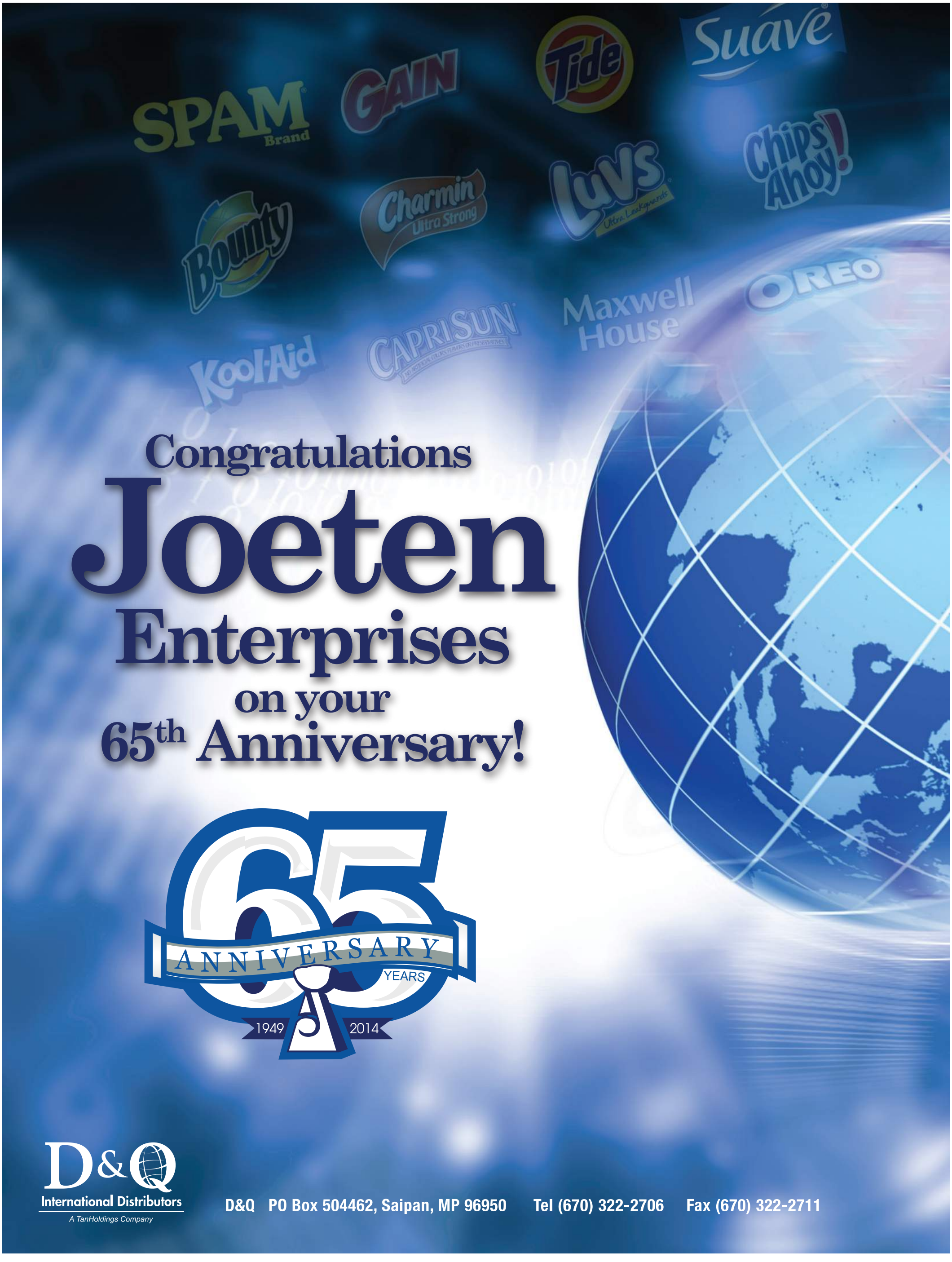
The SHEFA board earlier disclosed that additional information is needed from NMTI to come up with a sound policy for the institute. These may include data on the trade's curriculum, instructors, and operations.

Some board members earlier raised the idea of requiring NMTI instructors to ask their former universities for certificates that will qualify them to become instructors at the trade school.

At this time, Sablan said the SHEFA board is giving more consideration to the situation of NMTI, which is reorganizing and restructuring.

"As far as certification is concerned, we would move ahead now on whatever they have in their programs and we will continue to communicate and discuss with them the possibility of certifying all their instructors in the future," she added.

NMTI has about 50 students this semester. It was earlier disclosed that these trade students are technically ineligible for financial assistance from SHEFA because its enabling rules exclude grants for trade and vocational schools. The only way to go around this is to rewrite the policy and regulations, or establish specific rules and regulation dealing with trade and vocational scholars.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WICHE INFO SESSION RAYNARD TRAVILLA/NMC

Dr. Sharon Hart talks to participants during last Wednesday's WICHE information session held at the NMC Campus in D1. This is the first of a series of monthly WICHE Info Sessions that the Northern Marianas College will be hosting. The info session gives participants an opportunity to learn about WICHE and its programs, especially programs that provide CNMI residents discounted tuition at colleges and universities in the western United States. For more information, visit www.marianas.edu.

3-year reduced base charge for commercial customers eyed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its large commercial customers have agreed to endorse an incentive rate option that, if approved by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, would entitle these big commercial users a significant reduction in their electric base rates for three years.

CUC recently withdrew its standby charge proposal following strong opposition from both the Hotel Associations of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Saipan Facilities Management Association. As an alternative, the incentive rate option was recommended for CUC to generate revenue, while enticing large customers to completely hook up to the system's grid.

CUC rate consultant economists.com, in its April 24 testimony to the CPUC, disclosed that the new incentive rate provides a reduction of 7.3 cents per kWh from CUC's commercial electric base rate for three years from the date of CPUC's approval.

Eligible customers are those who currently generate 90 percent or more of their annual electric requirements and have installed capacities of 400 kW or greater. New commercial customers with generation capacity of 400 kW or greater will also qualify.

For customers who currently purchase all of their electricity from CUC, any expansion of their existing operation that results in an increase in load of 400 kW or greater will qualify them for the proposed rate.

"This schedule is available to qualified customers locating, expanding, or returning load on CUC's distribution system. Customers taking service on (Rider IR) incentive rate must agree to remain full requirements customers of CUC for the duration of the incentive rate period," states part of the recommended tariff sheet that details how the incentive rate option will be implemented.

CUC wants the incentive rate for large commercial customers to take effect on June 23, 2014. The goal, according to CUC, is to be able to reduce rates for all customers if enough very large customers return to the CUC grid.

According to economists.com's report, an estimated nine customers with combined connected load of 8,522 kW—or approximately 30 percent of CUC's peak demand—would be eligible for the incentive rate.

Based on the consultant's review, the peak demand of these nine members of HANMI and SFMA who expressed interest in returning to the CUC grid under the incentive rate is about at 6 to 7 MW.

Assuming all these customers connect to the CUC grid and buy all their power from CUC, the agency's revised peak demand would be approximately 37 MW and its reserve margin on Saipan would be at 111 percent, which is more than adequate to meet the electric needs of all CUC customers.

At present, CUC's generation capacity is at 78 MW, while its average monthly peak demand is at 30 MW. Therefore, its reserve margin is 160 percent.

Revenue forecast

Assuming that all nine large customers agree to buy power from CUC using the incentive rate, CUC projects a base rate revenue increase of about $1.5 million annually. Total revenue increase including LEAC will be at approximately $12.7 million.

On the question if the incentive rate would increase the rate for other CUC customers, the consultant said, "No, they will not. CUC's proposed incentive rate will not increase the rates of other customers. Base rate and customer charge revenue will help offset the loss of $2.5 million in projected revenue from CUC's proposed standby charge which CUC withdrew from consideration on April 15, 2014. CUC has chosen to forego asking its customers for a rate increase to cover the standby charge revenue shortfall at this time."

The CPUC is scheduled to deliberate and act on the incentive rate proposal at its meeting this month.

Eichenberger, Costales top Law Day essay, poster contests

JIM STOWELL
Grant C. Eichenberger is named best essay winner in the 4th Annual Law Day essay contest of the CNMI Judiciary.

JIM STOWELL
Katrina O. Costales is named the best poster winner in the 4th Annual Law Day poster contest of the CNMI Judiciary.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grant C. Eichenberger, an 8th grade student at Grace Christian Academy, and Katrina O. Costales, a fifth grader at William S. Reyes Elementary School, won the top awards in the 4th Annual Law Day essay and poster contests of the CNMI Judiciary.

The 13-year-old Eichenberger was named the first place winner in the essay contest for private and public middle school students, while the 11-year-old Costales took first place in the essay contest during yesterday's awarding rites at the CNMI Supreme Court.

The Judiciary also held a special recognition ceremony yesterday, which coincided the 25th anniversary of the Commonwealth Judiciary.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider, several lawyers, school officials, and other community members attended the ceremonies.

Eichenberger bested over 100 participants with his essay titled, "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters."

Eichenberger received a loud round of applause from justices, judges, government officials, and other people in the gallery after he finished reading his winning piece.

Eichenberger is the son of Doug and Calla Eichenberger.

Costales prevailed against 197 public and private elementary school students after her poster was chosen as the best among the entries.

"I'm happy. It's just unbelievable," said Costales, who joined the contest for the first time.

Costales, the daughter of Sammy and Jessica Costales, completed her poster in two days using crayons, pens, and pencils.

The other top winners in the essay contest were Rachel Kwon of Whispering Palms School, second place; Breyandel Santos of ChaCha Ocean View, third place; and Angelo Gabriel Manese of Mount Carmel School, honorable mention.

In the poster competition, the other winners were Tricia Zeruiya D. Salcedo of William S. Reyes Elementary School, second place; Irish Christine Viray of William S. Reyes Elementary School, third place; and William Blake C. Deleon Guerrero of Mount Carmel School, honorable mention.

The winners were given cash awards, certificates of recognition, and a copy of the book *Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary: A Historical Overview*.

Associate Justice Perry B. Inos presented the winners in the essay contest, while Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja presented the winners in the poster contest.

Castro said that yesterday was also a very special day as it marked the 25th year of the maintenance of Commonwealth law. He recounted meeting with several lawyers on Rota, where they drafted a legislative initiative that led to the creation of the CNMI Supreme Court in 1989.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman also recalled how they first formed the CNMI Bar Association and gave special recognition to Bar presidents who were present at yesterday's ceremony: former judge Timothy H. Bellas, former presiding judge Edward Manibusan, Vicente Salas, Maya Kara, and Sean Frink (through a representative).

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo handed the awards to the most senior members of the Bar—former first judge of the Commonwealth Trial Court Herbert D. Soll and William Fitzgerald. Attorney Michael White was also recognized, but he was not present at the ceremony.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho handed plaques of recognition to the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society trustees: Timothy Bellas, Johnny Fong (through his wife), Michael Pai, and Juan S. Tenorio (through his son).

Business

As Facebook matures, it looks to grow mobile reach

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Mark Zuckerberg, like Facebook, is maturing. The soon-to-be 30-year-old CEO of the decade-old social networking company grew reflective as he stood before hundreds of app developers to announce a host of mobile features designed to put "people first."

"We used to have this famous mantra, `move fast and break things,'" Zuckerberg said at Facebook's f8 developer conference in San Francisco.

But moving quickly was sometimes so important that Facebook's engineers would tolerate a few bugs, or push out products that were not always fully baked. Fixing the bugs, Zuckerberg said, "was slowing us down." Backpedaling on features that didn't work—or that users didn't like—slowed things, too, though Zuckerberg did not mention that.

Facebook's new mantra may not be as sexy. Zuckerberg pointed to a new sign that read "Move fast with stable infra," as in infrastructure, and the audience laughed. Stability, it turns out, is the new maxim, and the era of breaking things is over.

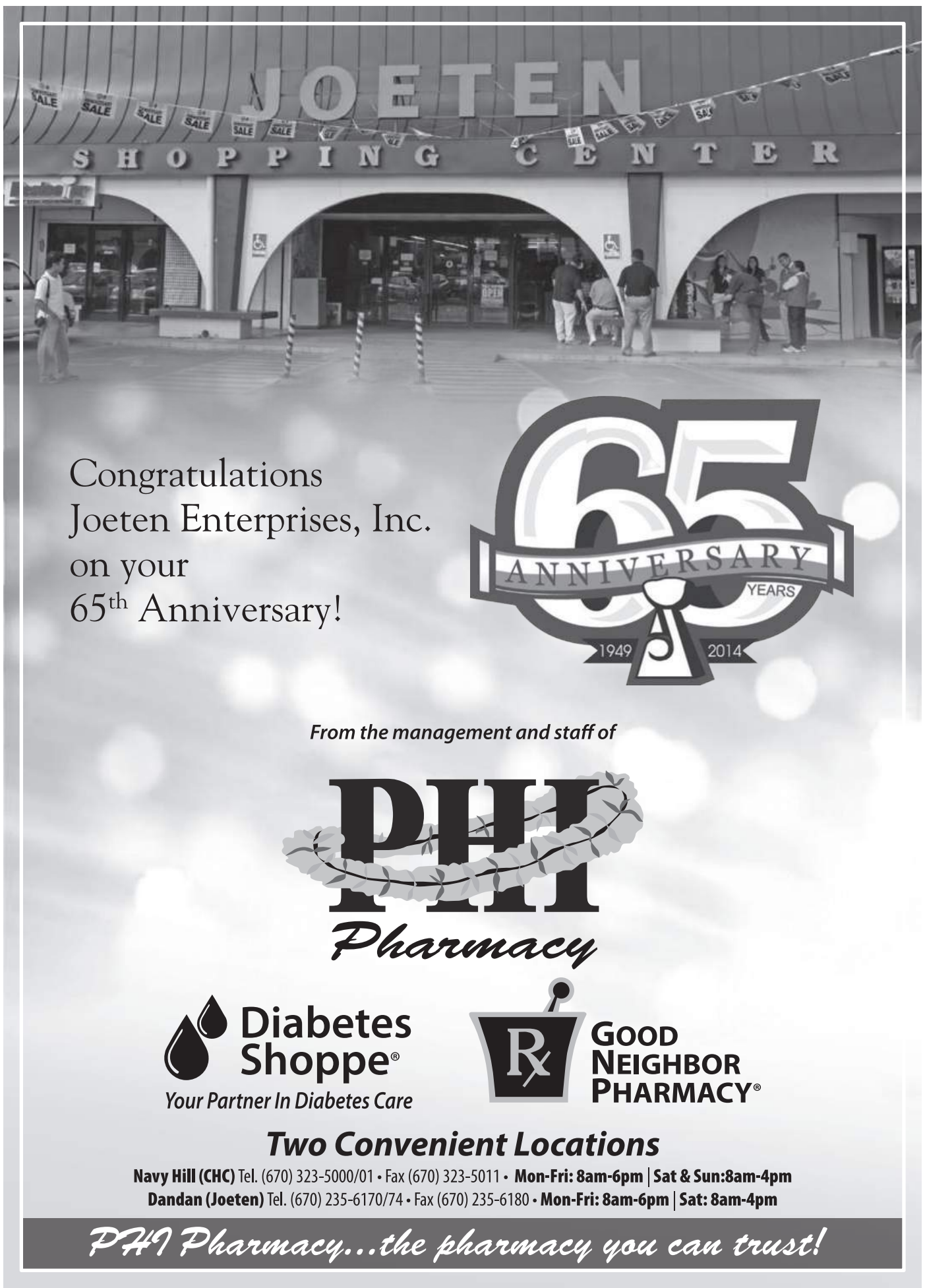
In a rare bit of onstage rumination reflecting on the past decade, Zuckerberg said he and other Facebook employees realized they had created a culture of quick-witted, fast-moving engineers who took pride in being "hackers" who consistently put the company's best interests ahead of what users wanted.

Now, Zuckerberg says, the goal is "to build a culture of loving the people we serve that is as strong if not stronger than our culture of hacking at Facebook. I hope you can see the seeds of some of this today in what we are talking about."

The last time Facebook held a conference for app developers was in 2011. That was before the company attracted 1.28 billion users, before it went public, before it began showing mobile advertisements and before it paid eye-popping amounts of money to acquire popular apps like Instagram and WhatsApp.

AP

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg gestures while delivering the keynote address at the f8 Facebook Developer Conference Wednesday, April 30, 2014, in San Francisco.



What does Wal-Mart not sell?

NEW YORK (AP)—The news that Wal-Mart is getting into the car insurance business begs the question: is there anything that the world's largest retailer doesn't hawk?

Surprisingly, the answer is plenty.

You can find food, meds and toys for your dog Rover at Wal-Mart, but chances are you didn't buy your pet there. By the same token, you can pick up a wedding veil at Wal-Mart, but not a traditional white wedding gown. And there are plenty of battery-powered cars for kids at Wal-Mart, but no life-size versions for grown-ups.

All that could all change someday.

Wal-Mart says that almost anything is possible as it pushes to cement its reputation as a place where shoppers can stop in for grocery staples like milk and eggs and also cross off a number of other things on their "To-Do" list. In keeping with the vision of its founder Sam Walton, Wal-Mart continues to look to expand its offerings of products and services at lower prices than its competitors.

Analysts say the pressure to expand its offerings is only intensifying as Wal-Mart continues to face competition from online rival Amazon.com, which is expanding into new products and services.

"We are all about one-stop shopping," says Deisha Barnett, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman.

In auto insurance, Wal-Mart hooked up with a new site called AutoInsurance.com that lets shoppers quickly find and buy insurance policies online to cut down costs. That move comes just a few weeks after Wal-Mart launched a money transfer service.

Wheeler says FCC won't allow Internet 'slow lane'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The nation's top telecommunications regulator defended his latest proposal to protect an open Internet, warning cable companies that manipulating data traffic on their networks for profit would not be tolerated.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler told The Cable Show on Wednesday that the so-called net neutrality rules he's proposed won't allow Internet service providers to push most users onto a "slow lane" so others who pay for priority access can have superior service.

"Prioritizing some traffic by forcing the rest of the traffic into a congested lane won't be permitted under any proposed open Internet rule," he said. "If someone acts to divide the Internet between `haves' and `have-nots,' we will use every power at our disposal to stop it."

Wheeler's comments come after he proposed rules last week that would replace the FCC's open Internet order from 2010, a measure which was struck down by a federal appeals court in January.

The rules are not expected to be made public before a May 15 FCC meeting to discuss them. Following a public comment period, a commission vote on the rules is likely to occur sometime in the summer.

Nation

Hundreds rescued from floodwaters in Fla., Ala.

PENSACOLA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—People were plucked off rooftops or climbed into their attics to get away from fast-rising waters when nearly 2 feet of rain fell on the Florida Panhandle and Alabama coast in the span of about 24 hours, the latest bout of severe weather that began with tornadoes in the Midwest.

On Wednesday, roads were chewed up into pieces or wiped out entirely and neighborhoods were inundated, making rescues difficult for hundreds of people who called for help when they were caught off guard by the single rainiest day ever recorded in Pensacola.

Boats and Humvees zigzagged through the flooded streets to help stranded residents. A car and truck plummeted 25 feet when portions of a scenic highway collapsed, and one Florida woman died when she drove her car into high water, officials said.

Near the Alabama-Florida line, water started creeping into Brandi McCoon's mobile home, so her fiance, Jonathan Brown, wrapped up her nearly 2-year-old son Noah in a blanket and they swam in neck-deep water to their car about 50 feet away.

Then, the car was flooded.

"Every which way we turned, there was a big ol' pile of water," she said.

Brown called 911 and eventually a military vehicle picked them up and took them to a shelter.

Kyle Schmitz was at his Pensacola home with his 18-month-old son Oliver on Tuesday night when heavy rain dropped during a 45-minute span. He gathered up his son, his computer and important papers and left.

"I opened the garage and the water immediately flowed in like a wave," he said. "The water was coming up to just below the hood of my truck and I just gassed it."

Schmitz and his son also made it out safely.

In Alabama, Capt. David Spies of Fish River/Marlow Fire and Rescue said he was part of a team who found two women and a young boy trapped in the attic of a modular home.

AP

In this image provided by Brantly S. Keiek shows several vehicles that collapsed together with a portion of the Scenic Highway in Pensacola, Fla., Thursday, April 30, 2014.

ACROSS THE NATION

Tankers carrying oil derail, catch fire in Va.

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP)—Multiple CSX train cars carrying crude oil derailed and caught fire Wednesday along the James River, with three tankers ending up in the water and leaking some of their contents, becoming the most recent crash involving oil trains that has safety experts pushing for better oversight. Nearby buildings were evacuated for a time in downtown Lynchburg, but there were no injuries, authorities said. CSX said the train was on its way from Chicago to an unspecified destination when most of the cars on the train were knocked off the tracks. Online photos and videos showed large flames and thick, black smoke right after the crash. The fire burned itself out, but authorities were keeping people out of the area.

Colorado eyes edibles rules as more people eat pot

DENVER (AP)—Colorado's marijuana experiment is threatened by the popularity of eating it instead of smoking it, leading the pot industry to join health officials and state regulators to try to curb the problem of consumers ingesting too much weed. A task force gathered Wednesday to start brainstorming ways to educate consumers, including a standard warning system on popular edibles, which is the industry term for marijuana that has been concentrated and infused into food or drink. One idea was to fashion labels on edible pot like the difficulty guidelines on ski slopes, a system very familiar to Colorado residents. Weak marijuana products would have green dots, grading up to black diamonds for the most potent edibles.

Botched execution offers new evidence to attorneys

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A bungled execution in Oklahoma provides death penalty opponents with a fresh, startling example of how lethal injections can go wrong. But the odds of successfully challenging the nation's main form of capital punishment will probably hinge on exactly what caused the inmate's apparent agony.

If four-time convicted felon Clayton Lockett suffered because of a collapsed vein or improperly inserted needle, that would suggest human error was to blame rather than an underlying flaw in the execution system.

If the drugs or the secrecy surrounding them played a role, defense attorneys could have a wider legal opening to attack the injection method, plus powerful new evidence to press the U.S. Supreme Court to get involved, legal experts say.

A day after the execution went awry, attorneys for some death-row inmates began planning new appeals or updating existing cases based on events in Oklahoma. Many called for moratoriums and independent investigations.

"Every prison is saying, `We have it under control, trust us,'" said Texas attorney Maurie Levin, who spent Wednesday preparing new briefs questioning that state's execution practices. "This just underscores in bold that we can't trust them, and prisons have to be accountable to the public and transparent in the method by which they carry out executions."

Asia

New pact reflects cozier US-PH alliance

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A new defense pact that will allow thousands of U.S. troops to be temporarily based in the Philippines for the first time in more than 20 years signals closer cooperation in the allies' hot-and-cold relationship that has been shaped over the decades by war, terrorism and now, jitters over China's rise.

The 10-year agreement, signed Monday as President Barack Obama arrived in Manila, was considered the centerpiece of his four-nation Asian trip, which Obama used to reassure allies like Japan and the Philippines of American military backing as they wrangle with China in increasingly tense territorial disputes.

AP

In this Sept. 20, 2013 file photo, a US Marine, left, from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit BOXER Amphibious Ready Group based in Okinawa, Japan, is greeted by Filipino Marines after jumping from a U.S. helicopter during a joint military exercise called Philippines-U.S. Amphibious Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX) in Ternate, Cavite province, southern Philippines.

Obama said the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement showed that Manila and Washington have emerged from a rough period in their alliance.

"We're here in the Philippines signing a defense agreement," he said at a news conference with President Benigno Aquino III at the presidential palace. "Ten years ago, 15 years ago, there was enormous tensions around our defense relationship with the Philippines."

The pact will allow thousands of rotating batches of U.S. forces to gain temporary access to mutually chosen Philippine military camps, paving the way for the largest U.S. military deployment in the country since U.S. bases here were closed in 1992. It will also allow the United States to station fighter jets, ships and surveillance equipment in the Philippines on a limited basis.

China's growing military might and assertiveness in the region has helped bring the two nations closer together.

The Philippines has struggled to bolster its territorial defense amid disputes with China, including the Scarborough Shoal, a rich fishing ground off the northwestern Philippines that Beijing took effective control of in 2012. Chinese coast guard ships last year surrounded another contested offshore territory, the Second Thomas Shoal, where Filipino marines are manning a rusty, grounded ship.

Brunei embraces strict Islamic laws

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (AP)—Brunei on Thursday embraced a form of Islamic Shariah criminal law that includes harsh penalties, a move slammed by international rights group as a step backward for human rights.

The tiny Southeast Asian nation began phasing in a version of Shariah that allows for penalties such as amputation for theft and stoning for adultery. Most of the punishments can be applied to non-Muslims, who account for about one-third of the 440,000 people in the oil-rich country.

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah has introduced the law as a "great achievement" for Brunei.

"The decision to implement the [Shariah penal code] is not for fun but is to obey Allah's command as written in the Quran," he said in a speech Wednesday to announce the launch first phase of the law.

From Thursday, Brunei citizens can be fined or jailed by Islamic courts for offenses like not performing Friday prayers, pregnancy out of wedlock, propagating other religions and indecent behavior.

More severe punishments such as flogging, amputation of limbs and stoning for offenses such as theft, adultery and sodomy will be introduced in phases over the next two years.

Human Rights Watch said the move was a "huge step backward for human rights" in Brunei.

"It constitutes an authoritarian move toward brutal medieval punishments that have no place in the modern, 21st century world," said its deputy Asia director, Phil Robertson.

The U.S.-based Human Rights Campaign, which promotes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality, condemned the changes as "draconian," saying the death penalty for gay sex, the eighth nation in the world to have such a law, was "horrific and sickening."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia to release plane investigation report

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia says it will release a preliminary report of its investigation into Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 on Thursday, more than seven weeks after the plane vanished with 239 people on board. Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said the report will be similar to the one the government sent to the International Civil Aviation Organization. The Boeing 777 jet disappeared March 8 while traveling from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing. Officials are still searching for the plane, which is believed to have crashed in the southern Indian Ocean.

Blasts in south Indian train station kill 1 woman

NEW DELHI (AP)—Twin explosions ripped through two coaches of a passenger train Thursday morning in a southern Indian railway station, killing a 22-year-old woman and injuring nine people, officials said. Authorities suspect the blasts were caused by bombs planted on the Bangalore-Guwahati Express that detonated minutes after the train pulled into the station in the south-coast city of Chennai, according to the spokesman of India's southern railway system, M. Bhupati. "The police are already on the job, they are investigating what kind of bomb it was and what was the purpose," Chennai Central station General Manager R.K. Mishra said.

Afghan coal mine collapse kills at least 15 people

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A coal mine collapse in northern Afghanistan killed at least 15 workers on Wednesday, an official said. Two other miners were missing in the collapse Wednesday morning in the remote district of Dara Seuf in Samangan province, provincial Gov. Hirullah Anush said . He said the bodies of the 15 workers were recovered from the rubble. Anush said the province has about 2,000 coal mines that are technically legal, since they pay tax to the government. But the mines operate in difficult conditions with workers using shovels and pick axes.

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World

Kiev: Forces 'helpless' to restore order in east

HORLIVKA, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's acting president conceded Wednesday that his police and security forces were "helpless" to stifle unrest in the country's east, where pro-Russia gunmen seized more buildings, walking into the police station and mayor's office in this mining hub without resistance.

Insurgents also took control of the customs service building in Donetsk, the region's main city, and city hall in Alchevsk, an industrial center of about 110,000, adding to the scores of buildings taken by the separatists over the past month in the east, where a dozen cities are now in the hands of the separatists.

Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov has twice proclaimed "anti-terrorist" operations to regain control of the east, but to little effect. In a meeting with officials from other Ukrainian regions, he acknowledged the failure and indicated the government would back off even trying to bring the most restive parts of the east to heel, focusing instead on trying to keep the unrest from spreading to other parts of the nation of 46 million.

AP

Pro-Russian masked armed militants guard barricades near Slovyansk, eastern Ukraine, Wednesday, April 30, 2014.

"I will be frank: Today, security forces are unable to quickly take the situation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions under control," Turchynov said. "The security bodies ... are unable to carry out their duties of protecting citizens. They are helpless in those matters."

"Moreover, some of those units are either helping or cooperating with terrorist organizations," he said.

Hours after Turchynov spoke, authorities in the capital, Kiev, announced security forces would hold exercises overnight. The maneuvers could be aimed at reassuring Ukrainians that the government was not capitulating. But they are also likely to be seen as an aggressive move by the eastern insurgents, who claim the government is a nationalist cabal intent on suppressing the east's large Russian-speaking population.

WH denies memo was about Benghazi attack

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House on Wednesday denied that a staff member's email three days after the deadly attack on the U.S. mission at Benghazi, Libya, was actually about the attack. Critics have branded the electronic missive as evidence that the Obama administration sought to deceive the public about the true circumstances surrounding the deaths of four Americans during the final months of the 2012 presidential campaign.

"It was explicitly not about Benghazi," press secretary Jay Carney told journalists during his daily briefing at the White House. "It was about the overall situation in the region, the Muslim world, where you saw protests outside of embassy facilities across the region, including in Cairo, Sana'a, Khartoum and Tunis."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., has called the email a "smoking gun" that "shows political operatives in the White House working to create a political narrative at odds with the facts."

The U.S. ambassador to Libya, Chris Stevens, and three other Americans died in the attack on Sept. 11, 2012. Republicans contend that President Barack Obama, eager to claim in an election year that al-Qaida and terrorists in general were on the run, misled Americans by linking the Benghazi attack to protests over an anti-Islamic video when he knew otherwise.

The intelligence community compiled its own talking points for members of Congress that suggested the Benghazi attack stemmed from protests in Cairo and elsewhere over the anti-Islamic video rather than an assault by extremists. The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, used those talking points during her appearances on Sunday news shows following the attack. However, the CIA's former deputy director, Mike Morrell, later said he had deleted from the talking points the references to terrorism warnings to avoid showing up the State Department, not for political reasons.

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia FM: OSCE can oversee Ukraine dialogue

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov suggested on Wednesday that a dialogue be launched between Ukraine's government and its "opponents" under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Lavrov made the comment during a statement to reporters after meeting with Peru's president, Ollanta Humala, and foreign minister, Eda Rivas. The 57-nation OSCE was tasked earlier this month with helping to ease tensions in eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists have seized government buildings in at least 10 tons and cities. The OSCE special mission to Ukraine has no muscle, however, to enforce its vague mandate and seven of its observers, including three German officers, were being held by separatists.

Sinn Fein leader arrested over 1972 IRA killing

DUBLIN (AP)—Sinn Fein chief Gerry Adams, the warlord-turned-peacemaker of the Northern Ireland conflict, was being interrogated Thursday over the grisly slaying of a Belfast widow that has haunted his political career for decades. Adams was arrested on suspicion of ordering the killing of Jean McConville, a mother of 10 in his Catholic west Belfast power base in 1972. That was the deadliest year in four decades of bloodshed, when the outlawed Irish Republican Army was committing killings daily—and Adams was already a commanding figure. The IRA branded the 38-year-old woman a British spy but killed her secretly and told her children, who ranged in age from infants to teens, that she had abandoned them.

Toronto mayor says he'll take leave, seek help

TORONTO (AP)—Toronto Mayor Rob Ford will take a leave of absence to seek help for alcohol, he said, as a report surfaced about a second video of the mayor smoking what appears to be crack cocaine. Ford, who is seeking re-election in the Oct. 27 vote, said Wednesday he will take an immediate leave from his job and his campaign. "I have a problem with alcohol, and the choices I have made while under the influence. I have struggled with this for some time," Ford said in statement late Wednesday.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Thieves take everything—even the kitchen sink

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Everything has been stolen—including the kitchen sink—from the kitchen of a model house in Kansas. Police say thieves stripped the kitchen of the Clayton Homes unit in south Wichita, taking all the upscale appliances, the wooden cabinets from the walls and, of course, the sink. General manager Kevin McCracken says the model unit was nearly ready for display when the theft occurred, sometime between 9 p.m. Sunday and 8 a.m. Monday. KWCH-TV reports that the missing appliances, cabinets, counters and sink, along with the cost of repairing the damage, amounts to a loss of several thousand dollars.

Austrian driver stumbles onto 10-foot python

VIENNA (AP)—Austrian police are looking for the owner of a large python—and the driver who found it may think twice before picking the next spot to stretch his legs. Police said Monday they were called to the scene about 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of Vienna after the unidentified driver stumbled onto the 2.5-meter (nearly 10-foot) reptile packed in a jute sack in a forest near a highway. The snake was found late last week. A pet shop has volunteered to temporarily care for it while police look for its owner.

Police: Man 'armed' with potato arrested

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Providence police have arrested a man who allegedly wielded a potato disguised as a gun during a robbery attempt last week. WPRI-TV reports 34-year-old Gary Deming of Cranston was arrested on robbery charges. Authorities say he pretended he had a gun when he demanded money from a convenience store and dry cleaner April 21. The convenience store manager chased him off with a baseball bat. A dry cleaner employee gave him a fake $20 from a decoy register. The station reports

Miss America: Don't suspend teen over prom invite

YORK, Pa. (AP)—Miss America is asking a Pennsylvania school district to reconsider the punishment of a senior who asked her to prom during the question-and-answer portion of an assembly. The York Dispatch reported Sunday that Nina Davuluri posted a statement on the Miss America Organization's Facebook page saying she contacted Central York High School to ask officials to rethink the three-day in-school suspension issued to 18-year-old Patrick Farves. Davuluri says her travel schedule will prevent her from attending the dance with Farves. School officials knew Farves intended to ask her to prom and warned him not to do it. Fellow students cheered afterward, but Farves was suspended for misbehaving.

Rabbit heads left in 2 sisters' mailboxes

WESTFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Westfield police are investigating after severed rabbit heads were found this week in two mailboxes in this western Massachusetts town. The Westfield News reports that a man called police Monday evening to report that a rabbit's head had been left in his mother's mailbox. The woman says a rabbit's head also had been left in her sister's mailbox about four blocks away. The heads were removed and disposed of. Police say a hunter who saw the heads said they appeared to be from wild rabbits, not domesticated rabbits. Police say no one in the neighborhood reported seeing anything suspicious and they are seeking the public's help.

Biker looks for false teeth on busy Spain highway

MADRID (AP)—A motorcyclist brought traffic to a standstill on one of Madrid's busiest highways after he pulled over to look for his false teeth, which flew out of his mouth when he sneezed, according to local media reports. Two municipal police officers approached the motorcyclist Saturday and ordered him to resume his journey for his own safety and that of other drivers on the capital's M-30 highway, Europa Press reported. It wasn't known if the man found his dentures. City police weren't immediately available to confirm the report and provide more details.

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Science & Technology

Google to stop mining student emails for ad ideas

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google will stop looking for advertising ideas in the emails of students using a suite of the Internet company's free products tailored for schools.

The changes announced Wednesday affect Google's "Apps for Education" service that has been offered to schools for the past seven years.

Among other things, Google Inc. says it will no longer pore through Gmails sent through Apps for Education for clues about students' interests. The scanning helps the Mountain View, Calif., company figure out what types of ads might appeal to the students.

Although Google didn't show ads in Apps for Education unless school administrators choose to allow the commercial pitches, the company could still use the personal data collected in Gmail scanning to peddle products when students might be using other online services.

More than 30 million students, teachers and administrators use the Apps for Education suite.

"Earning and keeping their trust drives our business forward," Bram Bout, Google's director of education wrote in a blog post. "We know that trust is earned through protecting their privacy and providing the best security measures."

Google's habitual scanning of Gmail had become the focal point of a federal lawsuit alleging the practice violated users' privacy. The case included claims by students at the University of Hawaii and the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif. that they were required to use Apps for Education as part of their enrollment in schools.

U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh dealt the lawsuit a setback last month when she denied a request to certify it as a class action representing tens of millions of Gmail users.

Google's scanning of Gmail in schools also had been facing questions about whether it violated the 40-year-old Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which is meant to protect student privacy.

Bout's blog post didn't cite the legal issues facing Gmail-scanning in his blog post outlining the revisions to Google's Apps for Education policies.

"Google executives are always pushing the limits and only back off when their hands are caught in the cookie jar," said John Simpson, privacy project director for Consumer Watchdog, a group that has railed against Google's data-collection practices for years.

Google is also removing the option that allowed school administrators to show Gmail ads when students were using Apps for Education.

An email app that filters and notifies

Get more quality time out of your vacations, let alone weekends at home, with this app.

Name: AwayFind

Available for: Android and iPhone, iPad and iPod touch (requires iOS 6.1 or later)

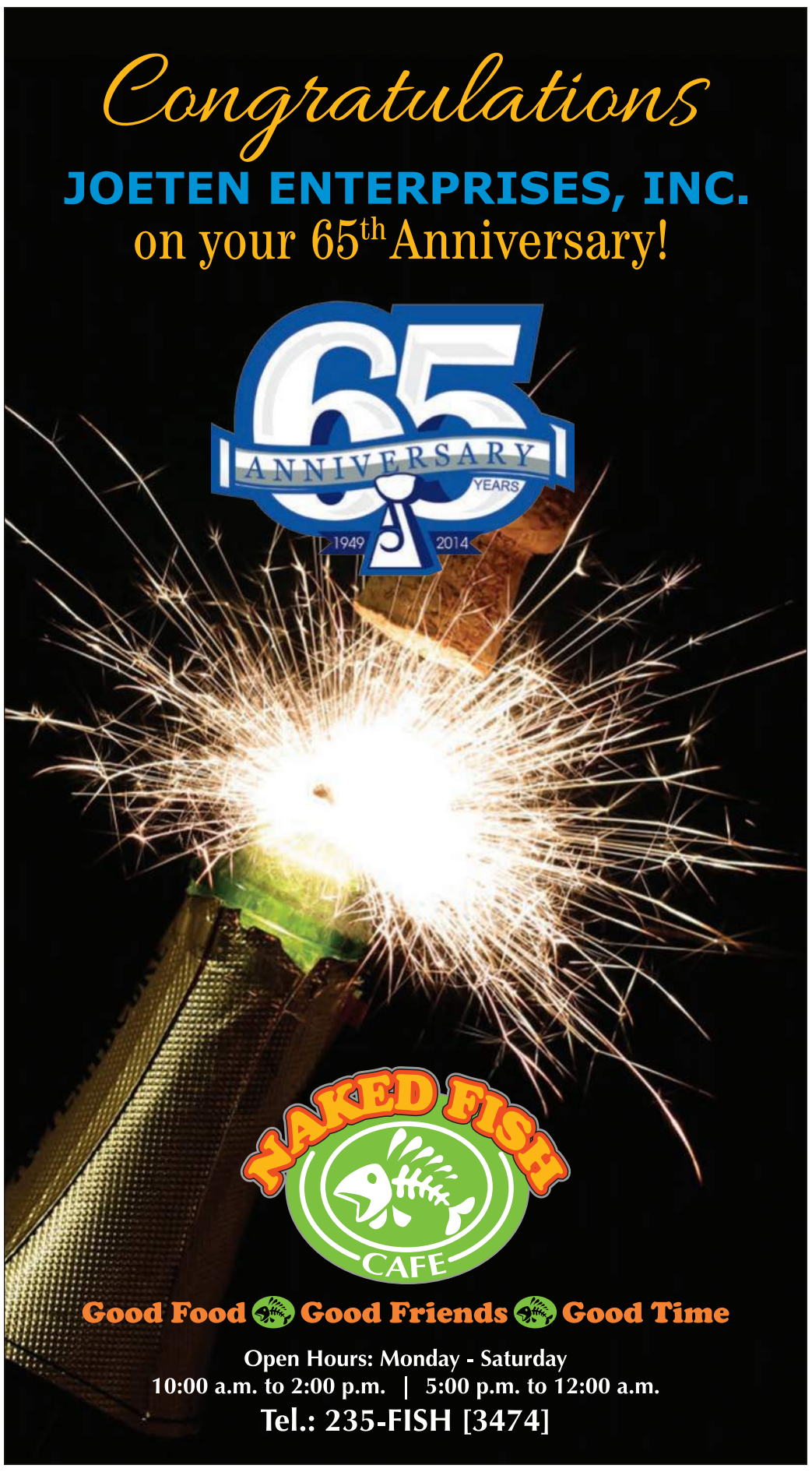
What it does: It alleviates the need to check your email continually by letting you filter which topics and people you need to hear from when you're away. Assign the priority email addresses or keywords and AwayFind will send you an SMS text to your smartphone when they arrive.

Cost: Free for 30 days; $5-$49.99 a month after that.

What's hot: It really works, and it works fast. I got the app so that I could increase my freedom. I signed up on a Friday and forgot all about it. Then important work emails arrived on Sunday and AwayFind sent me an immediate text. I was jolted from my family-focused weekend and reminded that my business was launching a product this week and I still had work to attend to. I became an instant fan. You can even fine-tune what time of day you'd like to be notified.

What's not: The cost. The company has been around a while and has tried free service. But the pricing plans, in place since November 2013, don't allow for a vacationer's short-term needs. $60 a year is a lot for what it is, and that's just with one personal email account. Also note: It supports several email providers that use IMAP but does not support Yahoo or Hotmail.

Worth it? Yes, if you and your business can afford it. It works great and the set-up was quick and easy, but do I really want to pay that much? I'll wait until the end of the free trial to know for sure. However, you get two months free if you pay upfront for the year. ***(Los Angeles Times)***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INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW14-IFB-003

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofshchneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Cheribiyan Road, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after May 02, 2014 at Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollares ($250.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Service Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on May 21, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, Road to Gillette Gymnasium, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 2:30 p.m. local time on May 23, 2014 to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Technical Services Division, DPW Oleai Joeten Commercial Center or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW14-IFB-003". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 28, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 28, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 28, 2014, and must be received no later than June 04, 2014. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, June 05, 2014, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 9:30 a.m. local time, on May 29, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the Northern Marianas Islands Code Section 70.30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, and
b) A Certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One hundred dollars ($100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

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Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTCs. NMHC may allocate **$2,466,520.00** in LIHTCs for the 2014 program year.

Application for LIHTCs

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, June 30, 2014**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **July 15, 2014**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **July 29, 2014**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **August 2014** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the August 2014 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

Life & Style

Tunisia turns to Star Wars to boost tourism

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Two dozen white-clad Imperial Troopers and other Star Wars characters marched Wednesday down a stately, tree-lined avenue in Tunis—a site where activists once fought riot police during the 2011 Arab Spring revolutions.

The empire was not striking back against the poster child for Arab democracy—just an innovative campaign to encourage tourists to return to this sunny desert-and-beach nation in North Africa.

"We came here to Tunis to help save the Star Wars sites in Matmata and Tozeur and convince people to return to Tunisia," said Ingo Kaiser, head of a Star Wars fan club in Europe, referring to the movie sets that are slowly being covered up by sand in the Tunisian desert.

He wore the khaki overalls and large helmet of the two-legged AT-ST machines that battled rebels in the forest of Endor in the 1983 film "Return of the Jedi."

A huge screen broadcast scenes from the Star Wars films as the thronging crowds snapped photos of the costumed Star Wars characters.

"It's the first time such an even has happened in Tunis, it's really impressive," said Asma Souissi, a 19-year-old student. "It opens up new horizons for Tunisia."

After long-time President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was overthrown in 2011, Tunisia was rocked by labor unrest, terrorist attacks and political assassinations. That devastated Tunisia's key tourism sector, which contributes 7 percent to the country's GDP and employs 400,000 people.

So the Tunisian National Office for Tourism teamed up with the country's new Star Wars fan club to stage the country's its first Star Wars encounter. Fan clubs from Europe took part in Wednesday's parade and screenings of the Star Wars films will take place at the desert movie sets over the next few days.

"We did this campaign to take advantage of these sets, which are unique in the world—the only sites from the movies remaining," said Zied Chargui, director of the National Office of Tunisian Tourism.

The campaign began with Tunisia's own video of Pharrell Williams' popular "Happy" song featuring Star Wars characters dancing around Tunisian tourist sites and the movie sets. The video has been viewed 1.7 million times since it was posted in March—and was tweeted by Williams himself.

"It created a global buzz, which makes us very happy," said Chargui.

The original 1977 Star Wars was filmed in Tunisia, with protagonist Luke Skywalker's home planet borrowing its name of the nearby town of Tatouine. Tourists can even stay in the Sidi Driss hotel in Matmata where Skywalker grew up.

New sets were built for the 1999 "Phantom Menace" film as well as its 2002 sequel. The seventh episode in the Star Wars franchise is expected next year but it is not filming in Tunisia, apparently due to concerns about stability. Some scenes are now being shot in Abu Dhabi and the cast was announced to great fanfare on Tuesday.

The Tunisian tourism industry nearly collapsed in 2011. In the past few months, there has been a return to stability and a renewed effort to bring back tourists, but the 6.2 million arrivals in 2013 are still 9 percent less than 2010.

"This event will give a boost that Tunisian tourism really needs—it is something new and a sign of opening up to the outside," said travel agent Rene Trabelsi, who is involved in the annual Jewish pilgrimage to the Tunisian island of Djerba. Restrictions were recently eased on Israelis seeking to make the trip.

AP

Star Wars fans wearing stormtrooper costumes parade along Tunis' stately, tree-lined Bourguiba Avenue, in Tunisia, Wednesday, April 30, 2014.

2014 CNMI TOURISM MONTH

"Tourism is Everybody's Business"

Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden

This highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by 14 hotel and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.

"My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation

Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas.

On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Tuesday feature of the Saipan Tribune.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Tourism Trivia" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (99.5 FM) and KZMI (103.9 FM).

Saturday, May 3, 2014

6:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony
6:10 p.m.	Chinese Lion Dance
6:30 p.m.	Awadori Team
7:00 p.m.	Ukelele Jammers
7:30 p.m.	Umang Glee Club
8:00 p.m.	Marianas High Poksai Guma Chamorro
8:30 p.m.	Tinaktak Dancers
9:00 p.m.	Alana Ia
10:00 p.m.	Closing

Food Concessionaires

1. Fiesta Resort & Spa
2. Hyatt Regency Saipan
3. Pacific Islands Club
4. Canton Restaurant
5. Furusato Restaurant
6. Sierra Pearl Shakes
7. Capricciosa/Tony Roma's
8. D'Elegance Café
9. Herman's Modern Bakery
10. Hula Girl/3's Inc.
11. Thai House Restaurant
12. Poon's Restaurant
13. Tropical Chill
14. Mariana Resort & Spa

Beer Garden Vendors

- Pacific Trading Company
- Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc.
- Northern Marianas Bartender Association

Hot Dog Eating Competition

Saturday, May 3, 2014

1st Heat: 8:00 p.m. (Under 18 years old)

2nd Heat: 8:30 p.m. (Ages 18 and older)

1st Place: $50.00

2nd Place: $30.00

3rd Place: $20.00

For more information, please contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Headquarters at telephone numbers 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or visit the website at www.mymarianas.com

Saipan Tinian Rota

Amazon snares classic shows in a streaming deal with HBO

NEW YORK (AP)—Fans of classic HBO shows like "The Sopranos" and "The Wire" will soon have access to those series and more through Amazon Prime in the first online streaming deal signed by the cable network.

Starting on May 21, Amazon Prime members—who pay $99 a year for streaming entertainment, two-day shipping and other perks—will be able to watch other older shows, such as "Six Feet Under," "Big Love," as well as early seasons of "Boardwalk Empire" and "True Blood."

Past seasons of newer shows such as "Girls," "The Newsroom" and "Veep" will also become available throughout the multi-year agreement, about three years after airing on HBO.

The exclusive deal also includes older original movies such as "Too Big to Fail" (2011) and "Game Change" (2012), as well as original comedy specials from Lewis Black, Louis C.K., Ellen DeGeneres and Bill Maher.

There was no mention of "Game of Thrones," one of the most pirated shows in history. Other shows such as "Sex and the City" and "Entourage" were also left out of the deal.

The HBO deal is a big win for Amazon, which is competing with Netflix and Hulu for streaming viewers as more people cut the cord on cable services. Time Warner, which owns HBO, has long seen Netflix as a threat to HBO and has steadfastly refused to license even its old shows to the company for streaming.

Netflix announced its first price hike in three years this week to help pay for more original programming, such as "House of Cards." Shares of Netflix dropped almost 5 percent Wednesday following the announcement.

Amazon, too, raised the price of Prime in January from $79 a year. It was the first increase since the company introduced the service in 2005, at the time without online streaming. But Amazon has been expanding into new areas, not just movie streaming but e-readers and grocery delivery. There are even reports of an upcoming Amazon smartphone.

Amazon and HBO did not disclose the financial terms of the deal, nor its duration.

'Who Framed Roger Rabbit' actor Hoskins dies at 71

LONDON (AP)—Bob Hoskins never lost his Cockney accent, even as he became a global star who charmed and alarmed audiences in a vast range of roles.

Short and bald, with a face he once compared to "a squashed cabbage," Hoskins was a remarkably versatile performer. As a London gangster in "The Long Good Friday," he moved from bravura bluster to tragic understatement. In "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," he cavorted with a cast of animated characters, making technological trickery seem seamless and natural.

A family statement released Wednesday said Hoskins had died in a hospital the night before after a bout of pneumonia. He was 71 and had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2012.

Helen Mirren, who starred alongside Hoskins in "The Long Good Friday," called him "a great actor and an even greater man. Funny, loyal, instinctive, hard-working, with that inimitable energy that seemed like a spectacular firework rocket just as it takes off." "I personally will miss him very much, London will miss one of her best and most loving sons, and Britain will miss a man to be proud of," Mirren said. The 5'6" (1.68 meters tall) Hoskins, who was built like a bullet, specialized in tough guys with a soft center, including the ex-con who chaperones Cathy Tyson's escort in Neil Jordan's 1986 film "Mona Lisa." Hoskins was nominated for a best-actor Academy Award for the role.

"Neil Jordan's `Mona Lisa' and Bob Zemeckis' `Who Framed Roger Rabbit' were just two of the films that showed Bob Hoskins' tremendous range," said Steven Spielberg, who produced "Roger Rabbit" and later directed Hoskins in his Peter Pan tale "Hook."

"He was an actor who loved to work and the work loved him. And so did every audience," Spielberg said.

Hoskins' breakout Hollywood role was as a detective investigating cartoon crime in "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," a tribute to hard-boiled 1940s entertainment that was one of the first major movies to meld animation and live action. The 1988 Robert Zemeckis film was a huge global success that won three Oscars and helped revive animated filmmaking.

"For all the special effects and technical wizardry, it was Bob's honesty and the truth of his performance that made the animated characters believable—and that was a testament to his real talent," said Zemeckis.

Born in 1942 in eastern England, where his mother had moved to escape wartime bombing, Hoskins was raised in a working-class part of north London. He left school at 15, worked at odd jobs including circus fire-eater and claimed he got his break as an actor by accident—while watching a friend

Hoskins

audition, he was handed a script and asked to read.

"I got the lead in the play," Hoskins told the BBC in 1988. "I've never been out of work since."

Hoskins initially worked in theater, but began getting television and film roles in the 1970s. He came to attention in Britain as star of "Pennies from Heaven," Dennis Potter's 1978 TV miniseries about a Depression-era salesman whose imagination sprouts elaborate musical numbers. It was later turned into a movie starring Steve Martin.

His movie breakthrough came in 1980 thriller "The Long Good Friday," playing an East End gangster hoping to profit from redevelopment of London's docks. It contained one of Hoskins' most memorable speeches, a Cockney-accented dismissal of American culture: "What I'm looking for is someone who can contribute to what England has given to the world: culture, sophistication, genius. A little bit more than an `ot dog, know what I mean?"

Jamie Foxx puts a charge into 'Spider-Man 2'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jamie Foxx, who stars in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," knows something about the double-life of a superhero.

Though he's 46, Jamie Foxx was only born 25 years ago. Named Eric Bishop at birth, he adopted the stage name at a Texas open mic, choosing a gender neutral moniker since women were chosen quicker at the comedy club.

"When I go home, I'm Eric Bishop," says Foxx. "And then when I go out, I put my cape on and I'm Jamie Foxx." He smiles and summons a sonorous Superman entrance: "I'm Jamie Foooxx! I'm here to save the world!"

But being "Jamie Foxx," he grants, can be exhausting: "You have to know how to pull back, especially for me because sometimes I'm constantly on."

So it's fitting that when the makers of "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" needed someone to play energy embodied, they turned to the perpetually "on" Foxx. In the film, which opens Friday, he plays Max Dillon, the shy Oscorp electrical engineer who's transformed into the villain Electro after falling into a pool of electric eels.

AP

Actor Jamie Foxx poses for a portrait at the Crosby Street Hotel, in promotion of his upcoming role in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," on Sunday, April 27, 2014 in New York.

Foxx's highly charged personal energy takes many forms. He's a stand-up, a sketch comedian (see: "In Living Color" or his 2012 stint hosting "Saturday Night Live"), an Oscar-winning dramatic actor (the Ray Charles biopic "Ray"), a chart-topping pop star, and now he's a member of the Marvel universe.

"He's a performer in the deepest sense of the word," says "Spider-Man" director Marc Webb. "When we were on set shooting three weeks at night in Times Square in the cold, he would get out and do Michael Jackson in the center of Times Square in his Electro outfit. The first day on set, he comes in and he just holds court. He does five minutes of stand-up that he's improvising right there."

In a recent interview, Foxx casually displayed his versatility, peppering his otherwise thoughtful conversation with bursts of impressions: the boxer Mike Tyson (he wants to play him in a biopic), a hint of President Barack Obama, a hysterical version of the comedian Mo'Nique ("Hey, baby, let me tell you somethin'!"), a Peter O'Toole-like English accent to talk about winning an Oscar.

"That's my whole life, mimicking," Foxx says. "It's what I do."

He also switches into Will Smith to explain why he wanted the part of Electro, recalling a conversation between the two in which Smith befuddles Foxx by traveling to Russia to sell a movie.

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NEIGHBORS [CC,DV] (NR)
Thu.800 PM

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri.(330 PM) 700 PM 1030 PM
Sat.(1200 330) 700 1035
Sun.(1200 PM 330 PM) 700 PM
Mon. - Thu.(330 PM) 700 PM

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri.(400 PM) 730 PM 1100 PM
Sat.(1230 400) 730 1100
Sun.(1230 PM 400 PM) 730 PM
Mon. - Thu.(400 PM) 730 PM

RIO 2 3D [CC,DV] (G)
Fri.645 PM
Sat. - Sun.(120 PM) 645 PM
Mon. - Wed.645 PM

CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)
Fri.720 PM
Sat. - Sun.(100 PM) 720 PM
Mon. - Thu.720 PM

Times For 05/02 - 05/08 www.REGmovies.com

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE DCRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 06, 2014, at 10:00 A.M. at the DCRM Office located on Tekken Street, Susupe.

AGENDA

I). PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call

II). PERMIT APPLICATION
Ironwood Blue Water Homes, LLC - 80 Unit Multi-Family Housing
CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2014-X-020
1. Permit Application Summary
2. Discussion by DCRM Agencies/DCRM
3. Permit Application Status

III). OTHER MATTER
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DCRM RULES AND REGULATIONS

IV). ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Agencies may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/FRANCES A. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMHC IFB 2014-003
This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

RENOVATION OF HOUSE AND INSTALLTION OF ALUMINUM TYPHOON SHUTTERS AND INSTALLATION OF THE PERIMETER CHAIN LINK FENCE FOR KAGMAN III LOT 842

OPENING DATE OF BID: Friday, May 23, 2014 Time: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested contractors on NMHC's list of approved contractors, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up the Scope of Work at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, beginning Friday, May 2, 2014 during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Conference Room located in the Garapan, Saipan, on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. Inquiries may be directed to Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager, at telephone nos. 670.234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the best interest of the NMHC and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Tinian Field Office, San Jose, Tinian. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
i. April 23, 2014 Special Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS
a. Update on CDBG Matters
1. On-going Projects
b. Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
c. Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
1. Loan Revision Requests
2. Loans for Approval

IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
a. Rota Field Office
b. Tinian Field Office

V. OLD BUSINESS
a. Update on Housing Expo
b. Fiscal Division Assessment
c. FY 2013 Audit Update

VI. FISCAL AFFAIRS
a. FY 2015 Budget Amendment
b. Open Interest-Bearing Account

VII. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

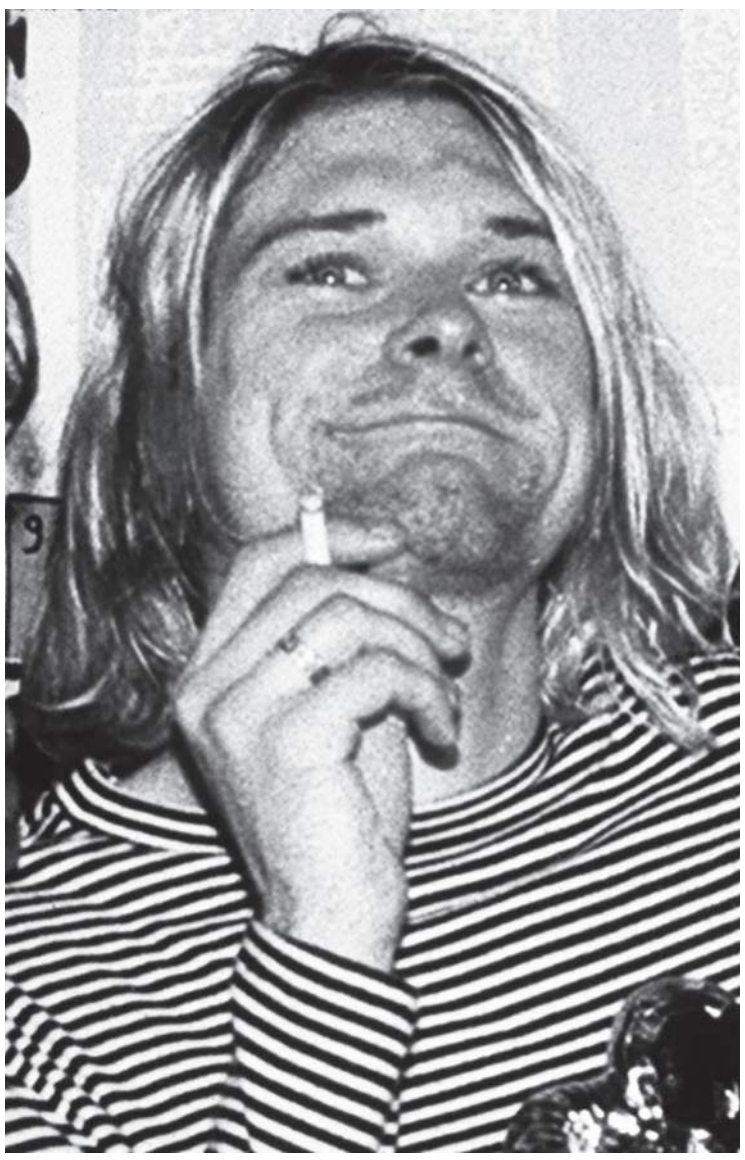
IX. OTHER MATTERS

X. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

Note in Cobain's wallet mocks wedding vows to Love



AP

This 1993 file photo shows Kurt Cobain, lead singer of Nirvana.

SEATTLE (AP)—A handwritten note police discovered in Kurt Cobain's wallet after his suicide disparages Courtney Love, the late Nirvana front man's wife.

CBS News reported that the note was taken from Cobain's wallet when police arrived at his home on April 8, 1994, after Cobain fatally shot himself. The note was never made public. CBS obtained it from the Seattle Police via a public information request.

The network reports that the undated note, apparently written by Cobain on stationery from San Francisco's Phoenix Hotel, is written like a mock wedding vow. It references Love as Cobain's "lawful shredded wife" who would be "siphoning" his money for drugs.

Cobain's body was discovered in Seattle on April 8, 1994. An investigation determined that days earlier Cobain had gone into the greenhouse of his home and taken a massive dose of heroin. He then shot himself with a 20-gauge shotgun.

Earlier this year, in advance of the 20th anniversary of Cobain's suicide, a Seattle detective reviewed the case files, including evidence photos and statements. He found no new information to change the police conclusion that Cobain took his own life.

Cobain, who was 27 when he died, sold millions of albums with Nirvana and helped popularize the Pacific Northwest's heavy, muddy "grunge" rock.

Bieber's friend gets probation in drug case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An aspiring rapper who was arrested during a search of Justin Bieber's mansion pleaded no contest Wednesday to felony possession of ecstasy and was sentenced to probation and community service.

Xavier Domonique Smith, who goes by the name Lil Za, was also ordered into a drug treatment program and fined $1,000 for breaking a jail telephone while in custody, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office spokesman Ricardo Santiago said.

Smith was sentenced to three years of probation, but the felony conviction can be reduced to a misdemeanor if he successfully completes his sentence, which also requires him to pay the Sheriff's Department $600 in restitution for the broken phone.

Smith, 20, was arrested in January after deputies said they found him with drugs while searching Bieber's mansion for evidence in an egg-tossing vandalism case. Prosecutors are still considering whether to charge Bieber with vandalism.

Detectives found three to four rocks of ecstasy and 16 pills apiece of Xanax and oxycodone in Smith's bedroom at Bieber's house, according to a probation report that describes his arrest.

Smith told officers he did not use the ecstasy but "he gives it to girls because they `love it,'" according to the probation report filed Wednesday.

Smith was not interviewed by probation officials, who wrote in a report, "It appears he keeps drugs to satisfy young girls that he is around." Smith is identified as Bieber's personal assistant in the probation report. He was originally charged with possession of oxycodone, but that charge was dropped Wednesday.

Miley Cyrus postpones 2 more concert dates

NEW YORK (AP)—Miley Cyrus has been forced to postpone two more concert dates, this time in Europe.

The 21-year-old pop singer's May 2 date in Amsterdam and May 4 appearance in Antwerp, Belgium, on her Bangerz tour have been pushed back to June.

A Wednesday news release says Cyrus' symptoms from a severe allergic reaction to antibiotics have returned and doctors will not allow her to travel.

Cyrus was forced to postpone her U.S. tour until August after treatment for a sinus infection went awry, but expected to be able to keep her European tour on track. The news release says Cyrus still expects to make her London appearance on May 6 as planned. The Antwerp show has been rescheduled for June 20 and the Amsterdam concert will be held June 22.

Death and Funeral Announcement

†CYNTHIA TAISACAN SAN NICOLAS

Born to life on april 24, 1952 and was called to her eternal rest on April 22, 2014.

Her Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of Her:
Husband: Candido Francisco M. San Nicolas
Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchild:
Victor & Frances Taitingfong (Doricyn & Victor Jr.)
Gordon & Gema Taitingfong (Gwencyn, Glen, Giovonni, and Goddhy)
Walter & Connie Taitingfong (Rocyn, Walter Jr., and Cynthia)
Great Grand Child: Gordon Joe A. Taitingfong

Step Children: †Michael T. San Nicolas, Peter T. San Nicolas, James T. San Nicolas, Audrey T. San Nicolas, Herbert T. San Nicolas, Ignatia T. San Nicolas

Brother & Sisters: **†Martin**/Matilde Taisacan, **†Juan M. Taisacan, †Mateo**/Sabina Taisacan, **Francisco**/Juanita Taisacan, **Estanislao**/Balbina Taisacan, **Maria Taisacan, Lucia**/Aniceto Mundo, **†Maria Magdalena Taisacan**

Brothers In-Law & Sisters In-Law: Juan/Mariana San Nicolas, Paz SN. Nauta, Priscilla SN. Muna, Ramona SN./Antonio Barcinas, Ramon M./Nenita San Nicolas, Ester SN./Robert Nesbitt, Moses/Norinda San Nicolas, Elisa SN./Norbert Camacho, Gil/Irene San Nicolas, Eloy/Cristina San Nicolas
Close Friend: Janet Ogo of Oregon
Her Cordinators: Alys T. Mundo of Oregon, Rox Ogo-Holland of Oregon, and Rhonda Ogo of Oregon

She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends at home and afar.

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:
Parents: †Clemente Sablan Taisacan and †Juana Maratita Taisacan
First Husband: †Antanacio Ayuyu Taitingfong
Son: †Raymond Steven T. Taitingfong
Daughter: †Yvonne Lillian T. Taitingfong
Brother/Sister: †Martin M. Taisacan, †Juan M. Taisacan, †Maria Magdalena Taisacan

Nightly Mass and Rosary is being said at San Antonio Church at 6:00PM.

Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014, viewing and last respects will be held at San Antonio Church from 8:00AM – 10:30AM. Eucharistic Mass will be celebrated at 11:00AM immediately followed by interment service at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank You and Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Children and Family

Kids are collateral damage in wife's war on marriage

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I both served in the military. When she returned from Egypt 19 months ago, she dropped a bomb on me, saying she didn't want to be married anymore. She said she had settled for second best all her life and that's what she had done with me. She went on to say she knows there's someone better than me out there, and she's going to find him.

All the evidence points to an affair, which she denies—constant trips out of town, emails and phone calls. We are now living paycheck to paycheck. We have no more savings and I'm paying all the expenses when it comes to the kids. She retired a year ago and refuses to get a job worthy of her experience. The worst part is, our kids have suffered.

We have been separated ever since she got back. She says our kids aren't worth her trying to save our marriage. Our close friends and family are still shocked, but no one more than me. It has been a struggle, which almost caused me to have a breakdown. Everything I do now is to lessen the impact on our kids. What advice can you offer me?

TRYING TO COPE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR TRYING TO COPE: Please accept my sympathy. Your marriage is over and you have to accept it.

If you haven't consulted a lawyer, you should do it NOW to figure out what your responsibility—and HERS—will be to the children once your divorce is final. They should be cared for by the parent who is willing and able to give them stability, and the lawyer can help you determine this. From your description of your wife, that would be you, while she searches for someone she "deserves." Personally, I hope she finds him, because the way she has treated you has been brutal.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a student in a community college. I enjoy the diversity of the students here; many are adults who are changing careers or getting the education they've always wanted.

One woman in my class has a habit of bringing her toddler with her. I understand that sitters can be unreliable and child care is expensive, but this disrupts the class—and I know it distracts the mother, as well. She often has to get up mid-lesson when her child needs to use the restroom.

I don't want to step on toes or intrude in people's personal lives, but college is no place for an unruly toddler. How can I handle this?

STUDENT IN NEW YORK

DEAR STUDENT: I wholeheartedly agree with you that toddlers do not belong in college lectures where they distract the students. This is something that should be discussed with whomever is conducting the class, and if that doesn't fix the problem, with the dean.

P.S. Some colleges have baby-sitting facilities on campus.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

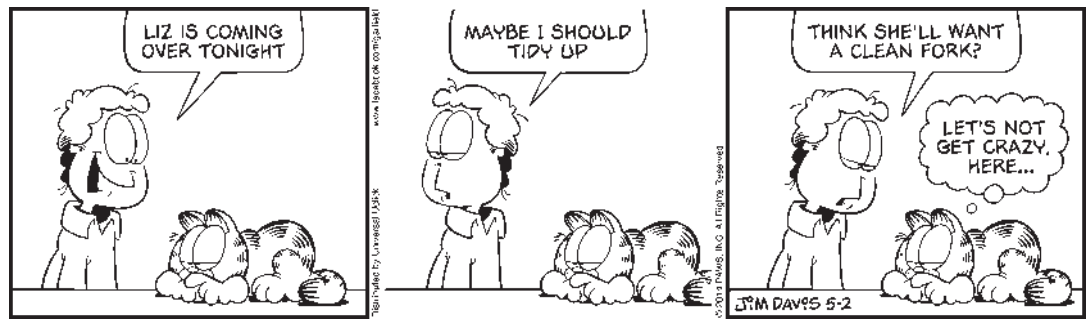
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DAD, WILL YOU EXPLAIN THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY TO ME? I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY TIME GOES SLOWER AT GREAT SPEED.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEEP CHANGING TIME ZONES. SEE, IF YOU FLY TO CALIFORNIA, YOU GAIN THREE HOURS ON A FIVE-HOUR FLIGHT, RIGHT?
SO IF YOU GO AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, YOU GAIN MORE TIME, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T TAKE AS LONG TO GET THERE. OF COURSE, THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY ONLY WORKS IF YOU'RE GOING WEST.
GEE, THAT'S NOT WHAT MOM SAID AT ALL! SHE MUST BE TOTALLY OFF HER ROCKER.
WELL, WE MEN ARE BETTER AT ABSTRACT REASONING. GO TELL HER THAT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DRAWING MY NEW COMIC STRIP.
OH, REALLY? WHAT'S IT ABOUT?
PONIES. DUH.
PSSH. PONIES AREN'T FUNNY.
CARNIVOROUS BROTHER-EATING PONIES ARE.
SOUNDS DUMB.
WELL, YOU'RE NOT REALLY MY TARGET AUDIENCE, ARE YOU?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOUR STRENGTHS ARE?
WELL, I'M PRETTY GOOD AT PRETENDING THAT I'M LISTENING TO BORING PEOPLE.
YOU CONSIDER THAT A STRENGTH?
THANK YOU.
5-2

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

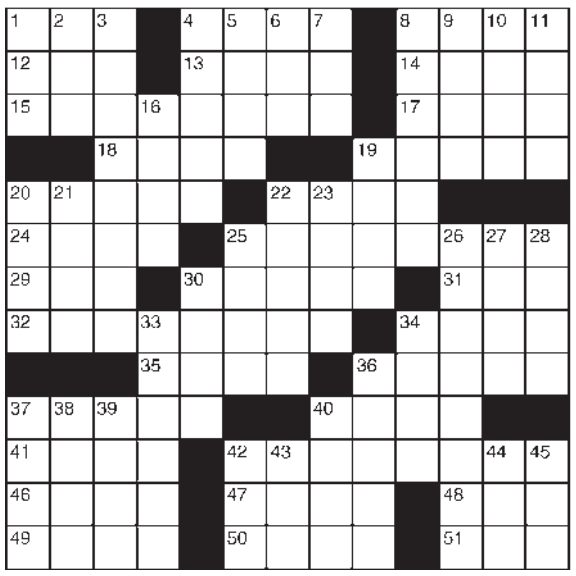
ACROSS
1 Half a sawbuck
4 Karaoke need
8 Scatters seed
12 Commotion
13 "American —"
14 Came down
15 Undue haste
17 Olin or Horne
18 Tittle
19 Hardly snug
20 Cash
22 Prosperous time
24 Iowa city
25 Fair
29 — and outs
30 Engaged in banter
31 Coach Parseghian
32 Letters
34 Greek consonants
35 State with certainty
36 Cutesy farewells
37 Woodshaving tool
40 Ms. Brockovich
41 Deposited
42 Profession
46 "— partridge ..."
47 Grooving on
48 Neptune's realm
49 Conan of NPR
50 Sheepish remarks?
51 Pigs' digs

DOWN
1 Distant
2 Greek peak
3 Snoop's trait
4 Tangy, like some mouthwash
5 Notion
6 Decks in the ring
7 Golfer Ernie
8 Deli offering
9 Couturier Cassini
10 White House section
11 Go nowhere
16 Weeding needs
19 007
20 Hurt severely
21 Old Dodge model
22 One of a tub trio
23 Raw rocks
25 Inlet
26 Enormity
27 Met melody
28 Glaswegian gal
30 Jazz jargon
33 Flip-flop
34 Liniment target
36 Small combos
37 Blueprint
38 Kent coworker
39 Verdi opera
40 "Cómo — usted?"
42 Clothes protector?
43 Italian article
44 Collection
45 Opinion

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	R	A	B	■	P	E	P	■	S	P	A	M
L	U	R	E	■	O	A	R	■	T	A	D	A
A	B	E	L	■	O	H	O	■	H	U	D	Y
W	E	A	L	T	H	■	V	E	A	L	■	■
■	■	■	J	E	S	S	E	O	W	E	N	S
C	O	N	A	N	■	A	R	S	■	T	E	A
O	D	O	R	■	M	I	A	■	S	T	A	Y
N	I	N	■	Y	A	M	■	D	U	E	T	S
J	E	S	S	E	J	A	M	E	S	■	■	■
■	■	E	A	S	E	■	O	B	T	A	I	N
W	I	N	K	■	S	I	D	■	A	R	T	E
A	P	S	E	■	T	O	E	■	I	G	E	T
D	O	E	S	■	Y	U	M	■	N	O	M	S

Yesterday's answer 5-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kyle Busch, 29; Ellie Kemper, 32; David Beckham, 39; Dwayne Johnson, 42

Happy Birthday: You've got the moves but must follow through. Don't limit what you can achieve by procrastinating or trusting someone else to do the work for you. Take control of whatever situation you face and use your imagination and past experience to help you chisel your way to the top. Pick your expertise and relentlessly push what you have to offer. Your numbers are 4, 15, 19, 21, 29, 35, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Be open to suggestions and new possibilities. Don't feel obligated to follow someone else or be reluctant to use some suggestions to come up with what works best for you. Focus on getting ahead, not standing still. A change will do you good. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take control of your financial situation. It's up to you to set your budget and stick to it. Don't be fooled by fast-cash schemes. False information regarding deals, contracts or donations can be expected. A conservative approach will lead to success. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Go with the flow. You will be unpredictable, but that will add to your charm. Follow your heart and you will find your way. A creative venture will allow you to use your talent to reach a new goal. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Temptation will entice you. An emotional problem will crop up if you share personal information. You are best to be a quiet observer. Focus on creative projects and personal improvements. Romance may be your desire, but emotional upset will prevail. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Focus on making appropriate changes that will lead to greater happiness and personal stability. If you feel the generosity being offered is questionable, look into the motives that may be behind the actions being offered. Do what's best for everyone involved. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your efforts are likely to feel futile. Look for an outlet that will calm your nerves. Interacting with people from a different background will help you discover the adjustments you need to make to reach your goals. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You are on the right track. Don't let laziness be your demise. Pick up the ball and run in a direction that promises you the success you've been searching for. A change of plans must not throw you off course. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't put off medical, financial or legal matters. Someone is likely to falsify information or try to send you in the wrong direction. Do your own fact-finding and put an end to any attempt to lead you astray. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Put greater emphasis on love, home and family. The changes you make now will improve your relationships with the people you care about most. Romance should be your intent and happiness your goal. Take action; show how much you care. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Speak up and take control of any situation you face at home that appears to need an adjustment. Your strength and courage will be appreciated by those who share your sentiments, but feared by those who don't. Pick your allies carefully. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Changing the way you do things will help open up a window of opportunity professionally. Use your skills in an unusual way and you will discover new possibilities. Invest in what you know and do best. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Harbor your thoughts and act below the radar. The less you let others know, the easier it will be to reach your goals. Interference is the enemy and persistence your ticket to success. Strive to stabilize your financial future. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are progressive and fearless. You are unique, positive and quick to respond.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3			2		4	6
						1		3
1					9		8	
				7		8		5
			9		1			
4		2		3				
	6		2					9
7		4						
8	1		6			7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	2	1	7	9	8	5	3
5	7	3	8	4	2	1	6	9
9	8	1	3	6	5	7	2	4
4	9	7	5	3	6	2	8	1
1	6	8	2	9	7	3	4	5
2	3	5	4	1	8	9	7	6
3	5	4	7	8	1	6	9	2
8	1	6	9	2	4	5	3	7
7	2	9	6	5	3	4	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NATIONAL TRUFFLE DAY! **Solution: 7 letters (May 2nd)**

E	F	T	C	I	R	I	S	H	C	R	E	A	M	M
S	G	U	O	E	A	E	T	E	N	I	M	S	A	J
G	S	L	D	C	Y	M	A	E	R	C	C	R	P	B
N	A	W	U	G	I	R	L	L	E	H	S	O	L	B
I	O	O	E	D	E	R	R	S	E	H	O	A	E	C
P	R	I	C	E	N	H	P	E	M	O	C	S	W	Y
P	T	T	L	O	T	I	S	A	B	K	T	T	A	R
O	R	N	O	O	C	E	L	T	B	W	L	E	L	R
T	E	I	O	E	C	L	L	E	O	A	A	D	N	E
C	S	M	C	A	O	E	R	E	H	F	S	R	U	B
O	S	N	K	W	M	R	U	C	M	C	F	M	T	P
F	E	E	H	A	Y	L	O	V	E	O	A	E	R	S
F	D	I	R	U	B	Ⓜ	Ⓘ	Ⓛ	Ⓚ	K	N	N	E	A
E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C	E	L	P	P	A	R
E	C	T	R	A	G	U	S	I	M	A	R	I	T	G

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Apple, Apricot, Best, Blackberry, Blue, Caramel, Cheesecake, Chocolate, Cocoa, Coffee, Cool, Creamy, Dessert, Fudge, Ganache, Indulge, Irish Cream, Jasmine Tea, Lemon, Love, Make, Maple Walnut, Marshmallow, Milk, Mint, Mocha, Powder, Price, Raspberry, Roasted, Salt, Shell, Smooth, Spice, Strawberry, Sugar, Sweet, Tiramisu, Toffee, Toppings, Treat, White

Yesterday's Answer: Curly Top

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2 is here! Purchase online at wonderword.universaluclick.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: A foot in the door

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

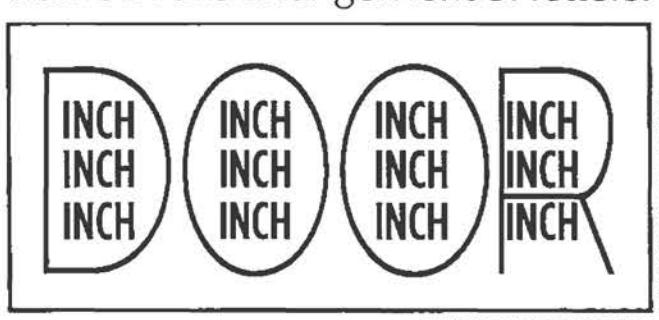
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



WHATZIT? © 2014 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

G4S

Job Vacancy Announcement

(14) Security Officer

Submit applications, police clearance, and copy of certification to our office
Apply: Rm. 3D, 3rd Floor, TSL Building, Garapan.
Police Clearance & Certification required with application
www.g4s.mp

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer and observes all federal employment opportunity regulations, practices and policies. Federal Law requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. Must be 18 years or older and must be able to speak, read and write English. Open to all qualified U.S. Workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). This job is open to all U.S. Veterans, Persons with Disabilities and Women In Non-traditional occupations that are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CPA-RFP-008-14

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, hereby request for proposals to lease and/or develop the following properties:

1. Lot Number 090 E 03; containing an area of approximately 3,562 square meters; with improvement thereon ("As Is"); situated at the Port of Saipan area
2. Lot Number 090 E 02; containing an area of approximately 1,958 square meters; with improvement thereon ("As is"); situated at the Port of Saipan area
3. Lot Number 062 E 03; containing an area of approximately 1,725 square meters; with improvement thereon ("As Is"); situated at the Port of Saipan area

Proposal requirements can be picked up at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Terminal Building, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning April 30, 2014, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For additional information, contact the Enforcement/Lease Compliance Officer at (670) 237-6500. Interested parties are encouraged to make arrangements to visit the sites listed above.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposals to Lease and/or Develop CPA Property CPA-RFP-008-14". Proposers shall submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of its proposal no later than **4:30 p.m. on May 30, 2014.**

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (b) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

D&Q
International Distributors
A TanHoldings Company

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is a leading wholesale & distribution company.
We are looking for an experienced, qualified U.S. worker, for the position of

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

- This is a company management position that is hands-on. The position will involve supervision of a busy warehousing and delivery team with responsibility for all inbound and outbound shipments.
- Emphasis will be on employee safety, customer service, product and facility security, stock rotation and damage control.
- The successful applicant should have a history of progressive work-related experience. High school graduate minimum. Some tertiary education a plus.
- Must be a team player and able to communicate at all levels, both written and orally.
- The successful applicant will be result oriented and must be well organized, honest, reliable, punctual, and a self-starter.
- Computer experience necessary, ideally with Microsoft Outlook, Excel & Word.
- Should have forklift operation experience and certification.
- The successful applicant will be required to provide a police and traffic clearance. Must have a valid drivers license. Pre-employment drug test required.
- Salary commensurate with experience.

D&Q Saipan is an equal opportunity employer that provides excellent pay and benefits, including company health plan, paid vacation and holidays, plus 401K Retirement Plan.

For more information please call 322 2706 or apply in person at CTSI Building, Lower Base. E-mail mpk@dandq-international.com

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IPod, IPad & IPhone Repair
We unlock all Smart Phone
We also repair Samsung S3 & S4
We Buy & Sell Used IPod & IPhone
Please call 233-5641
Calvatron
Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am - 7:00pm
www.calvatron.net

Chinese Goods Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement

- **(5) Waitress / Waiter**
(Preferably knows how to speak Chinese with related 2 years job experience)
- **(1) Dance Instructor**
(with 2 years experience)

Please mail resume to P. O. Box 502351, Saipan, MP 96950

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE

(1) TRAVEL AGENT
with 2 years experience

Submit resume to:
INTER-KAM TRAVEL AGENCY
or call Tel. Nos. 235-5555 • 235-8888

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Codominium
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view.
$700/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Jewelry Appraiser. Must have 4 to 5 years experience in jewelry appraisal, honest and trustworthy.

(1) Administrative Officer – Must have 3-5 years experience as an administrative assistant plus 3-4 years experience as an administrative officer. Must have experience in pawnshop industry. Applicant must also have knowledge of computer software such as Peachtree Accounting, Microsoft Excel and Word, for occupation revolves around the handling of information and assignments through the use of these softwares. Must know how to read reports and financial statements. Must also know how to prepare CW-1 applications, taxes, licenses and permits. Must have reliable transportation and valid driver's license. Applicants must mail resume with valid identifications, police clearance and previous employment certifications to PLATINUM INC. PMB 326 PPP BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises Inc.
is currently seeking
(1) Butcher
Interested applicants must email a resume to hrd3@joeten.com

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises Inc.
is currently seeking for
(2) SALES CLERK
Interested applicants must e-mail a resume to hrd3@joeten.com
Closing date: May 2, 2014

MILNE'S REALTY MANAGEMENT
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) FARMER - $5.55/hr
- minimum of 5 yrs experience, must be able to perform the duties of a farmer in accordance w/ the instruction of the employer & other duties as directed.

Email resume to maryann_milne@yahoo.com.
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

A Mother's Day to remember

It's time to celebrate all the good things about mothers. Share your love for your mom and get your message printed starting at $10.00

Publication date is Friday, May 10th

Limited spots only. Reserve yours now and give your mom a Mother's Day to remember!

I love my mother yes i do, for she is the one that has been there too! I love my mother yes i do. For if i had no mother like the one i do, i would be lonely, clueless, as well as you. I love my mother yes i do for she is the one that taught me too.
— Scarlett
A Mother loves right from the start. She holds her baby close to her heart. The bond that grows will never falter. Her love is so strong it will never alter. Happy Mother's Day. We love you and hope you enjoy.
- Shawn and Shalei

Option 1 **Option 2**

For ad booking, call **235-8747** and ask for our friendly staff at the advertising department.

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Japan Market Manager
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Native fluency and proficiency in the Japanese language required. Minimum three years experience in marketing hotels and other tourism related facilities in Japan required. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Server
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position will require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred. Fifteen (15) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Housekeeping
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Computer literacy is required for this position. Must have a friendly personality and willingness to provide customer service. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Landscaper
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Two (2) years of experience in related field strongly preferred.
Six (6) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Mechanic & Electrician
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years of formal mechanical experience or mechanical training is required. Two years of experience in related field strongly preferred. Two (2) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Bellhop
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. A valid Driver's License is required. Experience in a hotel environment preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Front Desk Clerk
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in a hotel front desk and/ or concierge position strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 1, 2014 **POSITION:** Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE: May 9, 2014 **SALARY:** Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be a required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality. Four (4) positions are currently available.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.
Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 14-023 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Assistant Engineer
(Mechanical)

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Senior Engineer or his/her designee. Assists in the designs, executes, coordinates, and oversees assigned pieces of projects to ensure adherence with applicable specifications and standards. Assists the public with a variety of inquiries and requests; provides technical information on projects. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION(S): Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $ 23,200.00 per annum - $ 32,574.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.
POSITION(S): One (1).

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Basic project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-024 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Senior Engineering Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Chief Engineer for the Water and Wastewater Division or his/her designee. Uses advanced technical computer applications to support engineering functions of the Division. Compiles As-Built drawings and expertly incorporates the data into existing composite system drawings. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION:
- Main Office at Joeten Dandan; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Sadog Tasi Offices of Water and Wastewater; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Fieldwork on Saipan and temporary projects on Tinian and Rota also possible, but the primary place of work will be at the CUC main office, which is currently located at the Joeten Dandan building.

SALARY: $19,425.00 to $26,789.50 per annum; un-graded, un-classified.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Associate Degree in Construction Management or Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, or Civil Engineering. Three years of senior engineering technician experience. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-025 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Foreperson
(Mechanic)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Serves as a foreperson, leading a team of workers - assigning and monitoring work and providing technical direction. Trouble shooting and Problem Solving. Plans work and prepares daily schedules and submits for approval. Responsible for teams output and productivity. Performs inspections and monitors subordinates work. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $21,104 to $30,601.00 per annum.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education. Four years of journey-level experience in the area assigned (in this case, Mechanic), including one year of experience leading a crew. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-026 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Machinist)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case machinist. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-027 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Welder)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Two (2).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case welder. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-028 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Electrician)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282.00 to $25,059.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Four (4).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case electrical. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-029 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Mechanic)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Four (4).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case mechanic. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 14-030 **Opening Date: Friday, May 02, 2014**
Closing Date: Thursday, May 08, 2014

Trades Technician
(Operator)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the division manager for Power Generation or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION: Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA. (If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY: $17,282.00 to $25,059.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.
POSITIONS: Three (3).
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible and proven experience in the trade—in this case operator. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Howard, Lin lead Rockets over Blazers, 108-98

HOUSTON (AP)—Jeremy Lin was so unhappy with his performance in Houston's Game 4 loss to Portland that he hardly slept at all after the game.

Lin should sleep like a baby after his work in Game 5.

Dwight Howard had 22 points and 14 rebounds, and Lin came off the bench to score 21 points and help the Rockets beat the Trail Blazers 108-98 on Wednesday night to avoid elimination.

"I just tried to be aggressive," said Lin, who had four points and three turnovers in Sunday's overtime loss. "I felt like I needed to be a spark for the team."

The Trail Blazers lead the first-round series 3-2 entering Game 6 on Friday in Portland.

A basket by Damian Lillard got the Trail Blazers within two points before James Harden stepped back and swished a 3-pointer to make it 103-98 with about three minutes left. The shot brought the crowd, which was clad almost completely in red shirts emblazoned with the words "Clutch City" on them, to its feet.

That started an 8-0 Houston run to close it out. Harden finished with 17 points and seven assists.

"I really hadn't did anything the first two quarters, so it was time for me to step up and make plays," Harden said.

Houston finally slowed down LaMarcus Aldridge, limiting him to eight points, after he averaged 35.3 points in the first four games. Wesley Matthews led the Blazers with 27 points and Lillard added 26.

"We had opportunities to make shots, but we didn't make certain shots that we needed," Aldridge said. "We didn't get the big stops that we needed. They played well down the stretch and we didn't."

Lin got extended minutes on Wednesday night with Pat Beverley dealing with a 101-degree fever. Beverley had five points in 21 minutes.

The Trail Blazers said the two shots Lin hit as the shot clock expired were deflating.

"He threw up some crazy shots," Lillard said. "That's when you know a guy is having a good night. They would put one up at the end of so many good defensive possessions, and it's going in. That let you know what kind of night it was."

The Rockets led by as many as 17 points in the first half. Portland cut it to one point three times in the fourth quarter, but never went back on top.

Terrence Jones added a basket for Houston after the big 3 by Harden before Howard got after Aldridge on the other end. He blocked his short jump shot, sending it out of bounds. Portland got the ball back and Aldridge got the ball again, but he badly missed a shot with Howard in his face as the shot clock expired, leaving Aldridge yelling for a foul.

The Rockets were up by nine early in the fourth quarter after four quick points from Lin before Portland used an 8-0 run, with the first four points from Nicolas Batum, to cut the lead to 91-90 with 7:39 remaining.

Matthews had 18 of Portland's 29 points in the third. Howard and Lin combined for 18, including Lin's long two as the shot clock expired with Lillard right in his face. Lin finished off the quarter with a three-point play to make it 82-77 entering the fourth.

Spurs 109, Mavericks 103

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 23 points hours after the birth of his first child as San Antonio never trailed in a victory over Dallas, taking a 3-2 lead in the first-round series.

Manu Ginobili had 19 points and Tiago Splitter added 17 points and 12 rebounds as San Antonio regained home-court advantage. Tim Duncan added 16 points and 12 rebounds and Kawhi Leonard had 15 points for the Spurs.

Vince Carter scored 28 points on 10-for-16 shooting from the field for Dallas. After averaging 16 points in the series' first four games, Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points on 10-for-20 shooting.

Carter's 3-pointer with 3 minutes left pulled Dallas within 98-94 but Parker followed a minute later with his only 3-pointer of the game.

Parker played on little sleep following the early morning birth of his son, Josh, with fiancee Axelle Francine.

Game 6 is Friday night in Dallas.

AP

Houston Rockets' Jeremy Lin (7) goes to the basket between Portland Trail Blazers Robin Lopez (42) and LaMarcus Aldridge in the second half of Game 5 of an opening-round NBA basketball playoff series Wednesday, April 30, 2014, in Houston.

Raptors 115, Nets 113

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry scored a career playoff-high 36 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer after Toronto had blown a 26-point lead, as the Raptors took a 3-2 lead in their first-round series.

DeMar DeRozan had 23 points, Jonas Valanciunas scored 16 and Greivis Vasquez added 15 for the Raptors, who would advance to face Miami in the second round with a victory in Game 6 on Friday in Brooklyn.

Joe Johnson scored 30 points and Mirza Teletovic had 17 for the Nets, who scored 44 points in the fourth quarter but lost their final chance when Andray Blatche fired a pass well over Deron Williams' head into the backcourt for a turnover.

Toronto led 94-72 on a 3-pointer by Vasquez with 11:23 remaining, but Brooklyn scored 15 of the next 18 points, including a four-point play by Alan Anderson, to make it 97-87 with 7:15 remaining.

Johnson later converted a three-point play, then made a 3 to tie it at 101 with 3:16 left.

Two free throws by Blatche and a 3 by Teletovic tied it at 106 with 1:23 left, but Lowry made a 3, then followed a layup by Blatche with a driving hook shot, putting the Raptors up 111-108 with 27 seconds remaining.

Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni resigns

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni resigned Wednesday after less than two seasons on the job.

Team spokesman John Black confirmed D'Antoni's resignation, ending the brief tenure of the Lakers' fourth head coach in less than three years.

D'Antoni went 67-87 after taking over the Lakers early in the 2012-13 season. He replaced the fired Mike Brown, who lasted just 71 games after replacing 11-time NBA champion coach Phil Jackson in 2011.

The injury-plagued Lakers were 27-55 this season, their worst campaign in more than 50 years and the second-worst winning percentage in franchise history.

With Kobe Bryant, Steve Nash and Pau Gasol sitting out large chunks of the season while the Lakers lost an NBA-worst 319 man-games to injuries, the 16-time NBA champion franchise missed the playoffs for the first time in nine seasons and only the third time in 38 years.

"Given the circumstances, I don't know that anybody could have done a better job than Mike did the past two seasons," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said. "On behalf of the Lakers, we thank Mike for the work ethic, professionalism and positive attitude that he brought to the team every day. We wish him the best of luck."

The 62-year-old D'Antoni had one year left on his contract, but wanted the Lakers to pick up his option year for 2015-16 to have any chance of success. The Lakers apparently refused, leading to D'Antoni's resignation.

D'Antoni walked away from a $4 million payday for next season, although he may receive a portion of that money as severance.

A phone message left for D'Antoni wasn't immediately returned.

Despite the Lakers' injuries on a roster consisting mostly of players on one-year contracts, Los Angeles fans largely directed their anger during a rare down season toward D'Antoni. Lakers great Magic Johnson, who was sharply critical of D'Antoni's coaching style, hailed the news on his Twitter account.

"Happy days are here again!" Johnson tweeted. "Mike D'Antoni resigns as the Lakers coach. I couldn't be happier!"

D'Antoni also has coached the Nuggets, Suns and Knicks. He reached two Western Conference finals with Nash in Phoenix before having much less success in New York.

"Whenever a coach isn't there anymore, for whatever reason, all of us in the fraternity feel badly," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said after the Spurs' playoff victory over Dallas. "He is a heck of a coach and heck of a guy. You always feel badly when something like that happens. I just hope that what he wants is going to be what happens for him. He is a special guy."

D'Antoni's signature up-tempo style of play seemed an odd match from the start with the aging, ball-dominating Bryant and the Lakers, who ran Jackson's deliberate triangle offense to perfection.

Lakers owners Jerry and Jim Buss curiously chose D'Antoni to replace Brown over Jackson, who strongly contemplated a return for a third stint on the Los Angeles bench. Jackson became the president of the Knicks in March.

Kupchak said he will begin the search immediately for the Lakers' fifth head coach since 2011—including Jackson, who walked away from the team after falling short of a third consecutive championship.

D'Antoni's departure will allow the Lakers' franchise overhaul to begin in earnest after their worst season since 1957-58 back in Minneapolis. Los Angeles missed the postseason for just the second time in the 17-season career of Bryant, who occasionally clashed with D'Antoni.

The Lakers have a top-10 pick in a strong draft and just three players under contract for next season, including Nash and Bryant. The fourth-leading scorer in NBA history will make more than $48 million over the next two years.

A coaching change also might make the Lakers more attractive to Gasol, an unrestricted free agent who intimated he wouldn't consider returning if D'Antoni still coached the team. Kupchak has said the Lakers are very interested in re-signing the 7-foot Spaniard, one of the top available free agents.

"There would have to be significant changes," Gasol wrote in Spanish on his personal blog recently. "I've never concealed the fact that D'Antoni's style doesn't suit my game. Everybody knows this. I don't know if my decision will be swayed by whether Mike stays or leaves. Obviously, the coach is a very important factor for any team."

After joining the Lakers on short notice last season, D'Antoni was unable to assemble a contending team immediately around Bryant and Dwight Howard, who struggled to embrace the pick-and-roll game so important to D'Antoni's offense.

Los Angeles won 45 games last season despite its awful start under Brown. But the Lakers lost Bryant to a torn Achilles tendon late in the regular season before getting swept out of the first round by San Antonio.

Howard left the Lakers as a free agent last summer, fleeing to Houston for less money to escape the Lakers' drama and high expectations.

Bryant played in just six games this season after breaking a bone near his knee in December, and Los Angeles never had a consistently competitive team in his absence. Nash also missed most of the season with various injuries, but the 40-year-old point guard hopes to play again next season.

D'Antoni realized he would take the blame for the Lakers' woes this season, and the veteran coach seemed comfortable with the prospect when the team packed up for the summer.

"Every coach should be under scrutiny," D'Antoni said two weeks ago. "Some coaches get fired even after the best years they've ever had. ... There's always things we could have done better, and it's easier with hindsight. Things don't always go smoothly. For the most part, our guys were very competitive. For us, there are some silver linings in there, but in hindsight, it's disappointing for everybody."

Angels beat Indians 7-1, extending skid to 6

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—C.J. Wilson pitched two-hit ball over eight innings, Hank Conger hit a go-ahead, two-run homer off Zach McAllister, and the Los Angeles Angels beat Cleveland 7-1 Wednesday to send the Indians to their sixth straight loss.

Wilson (4-2) struck out eight, walked one and retired his last 18 batters after a leadoff double in the third by No. 9 hitter Elliot Johnson. Cleveland's other hit was an RBI single in the second by David Murphy, who was thrown out trying to steal for the inning's final out.

Los Angeles has scored seven or more runs each of Wilson's victories, and fewer than four in both losses.

David Freese had a two-run single in the fifth against Marc Rzepczynski, and Mike Trout added a two-run double in the sixth off demoted starter Carlos Carrasco. Cleveland's bullpen entered having stranded 42 of 46 inherited runners, the best percentage in the majors.

McAllister (3-2) threw 101 pitches over 4 1-3 innings and was charged with five runs, four hits and four walks. Pitching on three days' rest for the first time in the big leagues after throwing 75 pitches over five innings in a 5-3 loss at San Francisco on Saturday, McAllister was shifted to the rotation after Carrasco went 0-3 with a 6.95 ERA in four starts.

Cleveland, which heads home to host the Chicago White Sox, was swept in consecutive series for the first time since last June at the New York Yankees and Detroit. The Indians totaled just 13 runs during the six-game trip, batting .183 and going 6 for 36 with runners in scoring position.

Cleveland opened the scoring in the second with David Murphy's two-out RBI single.

Conger's homer put the Angels ahead in the second, ending McAllister's streak of 37 1-3 homerless innings since Houston's Brandon Laird connected Sept. 20.

Albert Pujols made it 3-1 in the third with a sacrifice fly to center fielder Michael Bourn, who had no chance to make a play on Howie Kendrick at the plate after left fielder Mike Aviles banged into him. Aviles started in left field for the third time this season with Michael Brantley (1 for 14 against Wilson) getting the day off.

Athletics 12, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Jesse Chavez allowed one hit in seven scoreless innings, Eric Sogard matched his season total with three RBIs and the Athletics completed a three-game sweep with a rout of the sloppy Rangers.

Yoenis Cespedes had two doubles, scored twice and drove in two runs for the A's, who scored 10 runs combined in the third and fourth innings to answer a three-game sweep by the Rangers in Oakland last week.

The Rangers matched a season high with four errors, including one of two by shortstop Elvis Andrus on what could have been an inning-ending double play in Oakland's seven-run third.

Chavez (2-0) walked one and struck out eight, allowing only Prince Fielder's soft line-drive single to right-center field in the first inning.

Robbie Ross (1-2) gave up 11 hits and 10 runs in 3 1-3 innings.

Royals 4, Blue Jays 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Alcides Escobar delivered a two-run double in the seventh inning, and the Kansas City Royals held on for a tense victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Eric Hosmer drove in the other two runs for the Royals, whose bullpen blew a 2-0 lead for young starter Yordano Ventura before holding on to beat Toronto with a late rally for the second straight night.

Kelvin Herrera (1-1) stranded runners on second and third in the seventh.

Drew Hutchison (1-2) allowed all four runs on five hits in seven innings for Toronto.

Dodgers 6, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Zack Greinke pitched six strong innings, Juan Uribe had two RBIs and the Dodgers earned their 10,000th win in franchise history, beating the Twins.

Greinke (5-0) struck out six and didn't allow an earned run through drizzling rain and temperatures that dipped into the 30s.

With the bases loaded and the Twins trailing 5-1 in the seventh, reliever Chris Withrow got Trevor Plouffe to pop out to shortstop on a 3-0 pitch to end the threat.

The Dodgers join the Giants, Cubs and Braves as the only franchises to win 10,000 games.

Adrian Gonzalez, Andre Ethier and Yasiel Puig each added two hits and an RBI.

Kyle Gibson (3-2) allowed five runs in 6 2-3 innings.

AP

Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher C.J. Wilson throws to the plate during the first inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians, Wednesday, April 30, 2014, in Anaheim, Calif.

Washington 7, Houston 0

In Houston, Anthony Rendon finished a triple shy of the cycle and had four hits, Jordan Zimmermann pitched smoothly into the seventh inning and the Nationals beat the Astros.

Rendon connected for a two-run double in a four-run fourth and added a solo home run in the sixth. The Houston native added a double in the first and a single in the third but flew out to left in the eighth.

Zimmermann (2-1) scattered seven hits in 6 1-3 innings. He struck out seven to earn his 45th win with the Nationals, making him club's ningest pitcher since the Montreal Expos moved to Washington in 2005.

Denard Span and Kevin Frandsen each had two hits and Danny Espinosa also had two hits, including a solo home run in the fifth that chased Brett Oberholtzer (0-5).

Cardinals 9, Brewers 3

In St. Louis, Allen Craig homered on a four-hit day that included three RBIs, and Matt Adams hit a three-run homer as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers.

Jon Jay had three hits and a walk his first four trips to the plate. The Cardinals avoided a three-game sweep by the team with the best record in the major leagues.

Shelby Miller (3-2) worked around homers to Mark Reynolds and Carlos Gomez, allowing three runs and six hits in six-plus innings.

Milwaukee is 20-8, a franchise record for wins through the season's first full first month.

Matt Garza (1-3) joined the lengthy list of injured Brewers when he was removed in the fourth inning because of a bruised right thumb.

Marlins 9, Braves 3

In Miami, Nathan Eovaldi pitched seven innings and the Marlins scored nine runs off NL ERA leader Aaron Harang to beat the Braves.

Harang (3-2) gave up 10 hits in 4 2-3 innings, and his ERA rose from 0.85 to 2.97. The Marlins tied a season high with 15 hits, including seven for extra bases.

Marcell Ozuna hit a three-run homer, and Christian Yelich added his first home run of the year.

Miami's 9-0 lead after five innings was a rare luxury for Eovaldi (2-1), who has the lowest career run support among active major league starters.

Cubs 9, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Nate Schierholtz drove in three runs and Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run homer, rallying the Cubs over the Reds.

Starlin Castro went 3 for 4 with two doubles for the Cubs, who have won two of three following a four-game losing streak.

Brayan Pena hit a solo homer for the Reds, who have lost four of five.

Edwin Jackson (2-2) beat Cincinnati for the second time this year, allowing four runs and five hits in 5 2-3 innings.

With the score 3-3 in the fifth, the Cubs loaded the bases with no outs against reliever Nick Christiani (0-1). Mike Olt hit into an RBI forceout, and Schierholtz followed with a sacrifice fly.

Giants 3, Padres 2

In San Francisco, Tim Hudson and Sergio Romo combined on a five-hitter and the Giants beat the Padres.

Hudson (4-1) struck out six and didn't walk a batter for the fourth time in five starts this season.

The three-time All-Star was one pitch from recording his first shutout in nearly two years before Yasmani Grandal's two-out home run in the ninth.

Brandon Hicks homered and Michael Morse drove in his team-leading 20th RBI for the Giants, who finished 5-1 on their homestand.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 4, 10 innings

In Phoenix, Miguel Montero hit a leadoff homer in the 10th inning after Martin Prado hit a two-run single in the ninth, helping the Diamondbacks end a four-game losing streak with a win over the Rockies.

Colorado led 4-0 after three innings behind Carlos Gonzalez's two-run homer and pitcher Jordan Lyles' leadoff shot in the third.

Arizona cut into the lead on Paul Goldschmidt's solo homer in the eighth inning. The Diamondbacks then loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth against Rex Brothers, and Prado tied it at 4 with a two-run single up the middle.

Addison Reed (1-2) stranded a runner at third in the 10th inning and Montero ended it with his first career walkoff hit, a towering homer to right off Tommy Kahnle (2-1).

Nolan Arenado extended his majors-best hitting streak to 20 games.

Heisman winner Winston accused of taking crab legs

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston was issued a civil citation after sheriff's deputies said he walked out of a supermarket without paying for $32 worth of crab legs and crawfish.

The 20-year-old Florida State quarterback said he forgot to pay for the food. The offense was relatively minor but drew attention both because of his stature and because it was his latest brush with the law. Winston had been the subject of a much more serious, monthslong investigation into allegations that he had sexually assaulted a woman in December 2013. A prosecutor declined to charge him, citing a lack of evidence and gaps in the accuser's story.

Leon County Sheriff's Maj. Michael Wood said Wednesday that Publix employees called deputies, who went to Winston's apartment about three hours later. Winston was cooperative and told the deputies he forgot to pay for the food, but he did not contact the store or return there to pay for the items, Wood said.

"The facts are not in dispute," Wood said. "He left without paying."

Winston issued a statement through his lawyer saying he had intended to pay, "but made a terrible mistake for which I'm taking full responsibility. In a moment of youthful ignorance, I walked out of the store without paying for one of my items.

"I realize that I am in the public spotlight and my conduct needs to be above reproach."

The 6-foot-4, 235-pound Winston led Florida State to an undefeated season and national football championship. For the season, he passed for more than 4,000 yards and 40 touchdowns, completing nearly 67 percent of his throws.

Florida State baseball coach Mike Martin suspended Winston, a relief pitcher, indefinitely until he completes community service. Football coach Jimbo Fisher said in a statement that he supports Martin's decision.

Although Winston was cleared in the sexual assault case, the university is facing a federal investigation into how it handled the woman's accusations.

The investigation lagged for months after Tallahassee Police Department officials said they were told the accuser wanted to drop the case, but the woman's lawyer denied that. The accuser's lawyers have said the police department botched the investigation because detectives didn't quickly identify possible witnesses or obtain surveillance tape from the bar where the victim says she was first approached by Florida State football players.

Winston also has had two other run-ins with police, though he was not charged in either case.

In November 2012, police were called to an apartment complex in which 13 windows had been damaged by BB guns. Winston and his roommate at the time said Florida State players were engaged in a series of "battles" with each other, although they denied shooting BB guns themselves.

In another incident, police records show Winston came into a Burger King with three men but did not order food, instead asking for a water cup he repeatedly filled with soda over an employee's objections. The report says Winston was never interviewed about the incident because the restaurant declined to prosecute.

Paire U10 debuts in Guam tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paire Football Club's U10 team leaves for Guam today to compete in its first off-island tournament.

The squad is composed of Grafton Howard, Dylan Mister, John Sohn, Miles Borja, Keondre Lee Females, Victoria Torres, and Nathanette Blas. Patricia Coleman is the coach and the team will be participating in the Guam Football Federation-hosted "Grassroots 3v3 Tournament" this weekend.

"This will be the first youth team for Paire FC to go off-island. It will also be NMIFA's youngest club team to go off-island for football so far. Our club was invited by Guam Football Association to enter U10 and U12 teams. Our U12 players have an NMIFA Cup game this weekend, so they will not able to go to Guam this time. We will be entering two U10 teams in the 3v3 tournament on Saturday," Coleman said yesterday before the team had its last training session at the San Vicente Elementary School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of the Paire U10 team and coach Patricia Coleman pose for a photo before their practice session at the San Vicente Elementary School Field yesterday.

In the 3v3 event, Paire's first team will be playing against Islanders Apaka, Sidekicks Silver, Destroyers, and Tiger Sharks, while the second squad will collide against Crushers Big, Tigers, Beasts, and Islanders Betde. Participating teams will play two 10-minute halves at the artificial field of GFA's football facility in Harmon.

Coleman said their debut tournament in Guam will encourage the club's young players to spend more time with the ball and on the field.

"It will be a good experience for the kids to play against players from Guam and hopefully it will motivate them to spend more time on the ball. This trip will motivate players to try out for national teams so that they can continue their development, as well as gain invaluable experience of traveling to other places and interacting with people from other cultures," Coleman said.

Torres said she is looking forward to the experience of playing in Guam and promise to do her best in every game. Howard, on the other hand, said he will enjoy every game and make new friends, while Borja vows to show great sportsmanship on and off the pitch.

Besides the 3v3 tournament, Paire's U10 team will also have a friendly game against Islands FC this afternoon.

Meanwhile, the club would like to thank the following for making their participation to the Guam tournament possible: Tan Holdings, NMIFA, Naked Fish, The Shack, Northern Marianas College, Rob Travilla, Ray Travilla, Family of Maui Johnson, Marie and Falangi Tonuu, Derek Chambers, Maria Ornes, parents, volunteers, Docomo Pacific, and all the supporters of Paire.

ME golf tourney on May 10

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter will be hosting a fundraising golf tournament next Saturday, May 10, at the Marianas Country Club.

Registration is set at 11am and tee off is set an hour later at 12pm. Entry fee is $75 and is inclusive of green fees, cart, lunch, awards banquet, and a ticket for the raffle drawing.

The tournament will utilize Double Peoria scoring and those who don't have a team will be placed into one. Please make checks available to Worldwide Marriage Encounter. Cash and check payments are due on Thursday, May 8.

Sponsors of the golf tournament are Pacific Trading Co. and Pepsi Cola and Mariana Resort & Spa.

For more information, call MCC at 322-2235 or tournament organizers Joe and Reyna Saures at 287-4648 or Jay and Joyce Santos at 285-5466. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

THEA

From Page 44

former made in three in a row after downing Mikayla Lopez in 2011. In 2012, Thea was paired against her older sister and won anew, while last year, the younger Minor got her second win against Lopez.

Thea went on to arrange a rematch against Lopez for the girls U18 tiara this season, as they both topped Negahr Rastguiy in Week 1 of the annual competition. The Minor-Lopez title showdown was originally set for Sunday, but games were rained-out and the match was reset for last Wednesday. At the resumption of play at the PIC tennis courts, Minor and Lopez went back and forth in the opening set before the former pulled off the tough win and saved more energy in the second to rout the latter.

Minor said she is comfortable playing against Lopez and she came to last Wednesday's important game without pressure despite having to put her title defense and streak on the line.

Meanwhile, after completing her junior tennis career, Minor is heading to Roswell, New Mexico after receiving a full athletic scholarship from the New Mexico Military Institute. In New Mexico, she will be reunited with former Pacific Oceania ITF development officer Dan O'Connel, who is now coaching the Bronco.

"I'm looking forward to playing more competitive matches in college tennis," Minor said.

LEINA

From Page 44

"This year I'm hoping to finish strong and play the way I should be playing," Kim said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune* early this week after she got her second RMAC Golfer of the Year award.

As for her back-to-back plums, Kim said the second one was sweeter.

"It's always an honor to win something but winning the RMAC Golfer of the Year award again is a great feeling knowing that I did my best this season. I think winning it this year is a sweeter feeling. I knew what I had to work on and I had more and better competition out on the field," she said.

With Kim's recent success and the impending departure of some CSU-Pueblo veteran players she is expected to lead the ThunderWolves in her junior year next season.

"Summing up my sophomore season is bittersweet. We are losing a couple of teammates and I consider them as family. We all played our best and we kicked butt out there and won the championships," said Kim, who was named 2013 NMASA Female Athlete of the Year for her outstanding rookie season in the collegiate ranks.

TOKA

From Page 44

from Jason Lampkin from the left corner put Toka on top and the team hung in there, as Blue Haus committed several errors in the closing minutes.

A split free throw from Marvin Rabauliman made it a 2-point game, 77-75, while Blue Haus had a chance to force a deadlock past the two-minute mark of the fourth, but was called for a 3-second violation. The offensive lapse started with Elmer Esdrelon anchoring an attack and initially going for a jumper from the left baseline before dishing the ball down to Barbo, who along with his two other teammates were already in the paint, positioning for the offensive rebound. With Esdrelon's last-minute hesitation, referee Noel Delos Santos charged Barbo with a 3-second violation, nullifying the latter's point-blank basket.

Esdrelon contested the call and was later called for a technical foul for excessive complaining. Preston Basa trooped to the foul line, but split his charities, keeping Blue Haus' hopes alive, as Toka lost the leather in the ensuing play. However, the defending champion also made an error on the other end and it was a big one, as Barbo had an open lane for a drive, but fumbled the ball even before he took off for the basket. Rabauliman picked up the loose ball and threw a long pass to Lizama. The heave was a bit strong, but Lizama's long hands came in a handy, as he reached out to save the ball and stepped back for the uncontested layup.

Toka extended its lead to 5, 80-75, with 37 seconds left and Blue Haus was obliged to call its last time out. When the match resumed, Blue Haus had another miscue, as Talania lost the ball at the sideline after getting the inbound pass from Esdrelon.

Another split free throws from Basa and a drive from Rabauliman sealed it for Toka, while Lerio Pagarao, who loitered at the bench so long in the fourth quarter, ended Blue Haus' drought with his short jumper, just 11 second remaining on the clock.

Meanwhile, in the first game, JP World (4-1) also showed poise in the fourth quarter to edge Island Manpower (3-2), 80-78.

Freddie Pelisamen converted a triple entering into the last two minutes of the match to give JP World enough cushion, while Island Manpower missed several chances for a comeback after failing to cash-in on three shots from downtown.

Pelisamen's crucial trey came when JP World was hanging on to a shaky 76-75. He then stole the ball from Island Manpower in the ensuing play and was fouled, but muffed both charities, keeping the latter in the game. An errant pass from Syl Teregeyo to Jerome Norita in a fastbreak play returned possession to JP World, which extended the lead to four off a split from Jun Estolas.

Island Manpower sued for time and Norita went for a quick trey when the game resumed, but missed the shot. A JP World error returned possession to Island Manpower and this time Cecilio Bisana tried his luck from beyond the arc, but to no avail, while Peter Lizama also pulled up for a three when they got the leather back and missed, too.

JP World went on to run the clock down before going for a shot and muffing it, leaving Island Manpower with six seconds left to orchestrate a play. White Capalad then drilled a triple from the right corner with one second left in the game to peg the final score.

First Game

JP World 80 – Pelisamen 19, J. Estolas 17, Camacho 8, Ruluked 8, Manalo 7, D. Estolas 4, Peredo 4, Sison 3, Deocares 2, Paraiso 2.

Island Manpower 78 – Norita 20, Bisana 14, Capalad 9, Tabora 8, Teregeyo 6, Lizama 5, Hernaez 4, Tobias 3, Libuw 3.

Scoring by quarters: 24-17, 46-30, 60-59, 80-78.

Second Game

Toka 83 – Lizama 27, Rabauliman 17, Barcinas 13, Lampkin 7,Basa 6, Joyner 5, Caro 4.

Blue Haus 77 – Pagarao 17, Esdrelon 15, Barbo 12, Demapan 10, Talania 9, Devero 6, Berline 3, De Dios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-14, 42-38, 64-66, 83-77.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	15	11	.577	–
Baltimore	12	12	.500	2
Boston	13	14	.481	2½
Toronto	12	15	.444	3½
Tampa Bay	11	16	.407	4½

Central Division

Detroit	14	9	.609	–
Kansas City	14	12	.538	1½
Minnesota	12	12	.500	2½
Chicago	14	15	.483	3
Cleveland	11	17	.393	5½

West Division

Oakland	18	10	.643	–
Texas	15	13	.536	3
Los Angeles	14	13	.519	3½
Seattle	11	14	.440	5½
Houston	9	19	.321	9

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	17	9	.654	–
New York	15	11	.577	2
Washington	16	12	.571	2
Philadelphia	13	13	.500	4
Miami	13	14	.481	4½

Central Division

Milwaukee	20	8	.714	–
St. Louis	15	14	.517	5½
Cincinnati	12	15	.444	7½
Pittsburgh	10	16	.385	9
Chicago	9	17	.346	10

West Division

San Francisco	17	11	.607	–
Los Angeles	15	12	.556	1½
Colorado	16	13	.552	1½
San Diego	13	16	.448	4½
Arizona	9	22	.290	9½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senior League Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Braves and Jets players exchange hi-fives after winning in their championship game in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Jets won, 5-3.

The Braves' A.J. Evangelista checks on first base before throwing a pitch.

Jets runner Nathan Camacho rushes to home plate.

The Braves' J.J. Lifoifoi delivers a pitch.

The Jets' Kenji Yamagata catches a throw from home plate.

The Jets huddle on the mound after the Braves scored in the sixth inning.

SPAM™ COOK-OFF

Cook-Off Competition
Saturday
May 17, 2014 at 11am
JOETEN SUSUPE
Limit 20 contestants

Winner will receive $650 cash plus a case of SPAM®!

To Enter

Print the following:
- your name
- address
- daytime phone number
- SPAM™ recipe

on an 8.5x11 sheet of paper and submit to Joeten Susupe, Monday-Saturday, 8am-6pm.

For more information: Contact Abby at D&Q 322-2706/285-2702 or JJ at Joeten Susupe 234-6446.

Categories

Each contestant may enter only one recipe in one of the following categories:
- original appetizer
- casserole
- stew
- stir-fry
- salad
- sandwich

Each recipe entry must use at least one 12-ounce can of the SPAM® family of products.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

1st place prize - $650 cash & 1 case of SPAM® (assorted flavors)

2nd place prize - $365 cash & 1 case of SPAM® (assorted flavors)

3rd place prize - $165 cash & 1 case of SPAM® (assorted flavors)

D&Q International Distributors, A TanHoldings Company

Hormel Foods

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65 Anniversary

SPAM® COOK-OFF OFFICIAL RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. Eligibility. This Contest is open only to contestants who are at least 18 years of age or older and amateurs. Professionals are not eligible to enter. For purposes of this event, "Professionals" are defined as anyone who makes money through professional cooking, including, but not limited to chefs, food editors, home economists, and food preparation editors. Employees of Dickerson & Quinn, Joeten Enterprises and the immediate families of each are not eligible to enter.

2. The SPAM® Cook-Off will be held at Joeten Susupe on Saturday, May 17th at 11:00AM and will be limited to twenty (20) contestants. Contest registration will be on a first-come, first serve basis. To enter the contest, individuals must submit their name, address, daytime phone number and recipe; all information is to be typed on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper, to the Joeten Susupe, Monday-Saturday, 8am-6pm. All contestants will be required to sign the Official Rules upon entering the contest. Each contestant may enter only one recipe for one of the following categories: original appetizer, casserole, stew, stir-fry, salad or sandwich. Each recipe entry must use at least one 12-ounce can from the SPAM® family of products (any variety). Last day/time to submit entry forms and recipes is Wednesday, May 14th at 6pm.

3. Recipes must not have been published and/or cannot have won prizes or awards in other contests and must not be restricted in any way. Submission of the recipes gives Dickerson & Quinn and Joeten Enterprise the right to modify, edit, adapt, publish and/or use the recipe in any way and in any and all media without limitation and without consideration or payment to the entrant.

4. Each participating contestant will be given a SPAM® T-shirt. Contestants are encouraged to wear the T-shirt during each competition.

5. Contestants must bring their dish for judging by 10:45am. Any dishes brought in after 10:45am will be disqualified. Judging will begin promptly at 11:15am. Final heating, cooking and presentation preparation may be done at the contest site. Power outlets will be provided. Contestants must bring all required preparation materials such as warming plates, crock pots, etc. The individual who entered the contest must be present at the judging of their dish. Entries will be judged on the basis of taste, originality and overall presentation. The judges will be chosen by Dickerson & Quinn and Joeten Enterprise.

6. A first, second and third place winner will be selected. The first place winner will receive $650 cash plus 1 case of SPAM® (assorted flavors). The second place winner will receive $365 cash plus 1 case of SPAM® (assorted flavors). The third place winner will receive $165 cash plus 1 case of SPAM® (assorted flavors).

7. All winners will be required to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability/Publicity Release that will, among other things, allow the use of winners' names by the sponsors. Failure to comply with this condition will result in forfeiture of prizes. All applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Void where taxed, restricted or prohibited by law. All taxes are the sole responsibility of the winners.

8. Interpretation of the contest rules shall be at the sole discretion of Dickerson & Quinn. Any decisions made shall be binding on all contestants. Judges decisions are final.

9. Contest is sponsored by Dickerson & Quinn.

10. Contest void where prohibited. All prizes will be awarded. Prizes are nonrefundable, nontransferable, and cannot be redeemed for cash. Winners must consent to the use of his/her likeness and/or photograph for advertising purposes without additional compensation. Taxes on prizes are the responsibility of the winner. All recipes become the property of Dickerson & Quinn and will not be returned. Dickerson & Quinn is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated entries.

Howard, Lin lead Rockets over Blazers, 108-98

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Sports

Angels beat Indians 7-1, extending skid to 6

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Thea shines in swan song

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor steps back for a return during one of the tournaments this year at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thea Minor capped her junior tennis career in style, winning the girls U18 singles crown in the 2014 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Wednesday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

Minor survived Mikayla Lopez in the extended opening set of their title match, 7-6 (8-6) and then coasted to a 6-0 victory in the second to top the division. It was Minor's sixth straight girls U18 singles championships in the same tournament, making her the lone CNMI player to achieve that feat.

"It feels great to end my junior tennis career with a winning streak. The CNMI Junior Championships is an important tournament of the year before the ITF because besides getting a regular trophy, there is another special trophy, which is the perpetual trophy and your name is included with the past champions. Six years of winning is so amazing, it's history in CNMI tennis," the Saipan Southern High School senior said.

The 18-year-old player bagged her first crown in 2009 after prevailing against sister Theecel, Dina Jones, and Jodel Fernandez in a round-robin tournament. In 2010, Minor defeated Lila Mailman in the finals and the

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Leina off to NCAA regionals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Leina Kim's grit will be tested anew, as she competes in the NCAA Division II Women's Golf West Super Regional Tournament next week.

The former CNMI junior golfer qualified for the elite tournament after bagging the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Golfer of the Year award for the second straight season and leading her Colorado State University-Pueblo to the RMAC championship late last month.

It will be the second time Kim made it to the NCAA regionals after debuting in the competition last season during her rookie season with the ThunderWolves. She is the lone RMAC player participating in the tournament that will be held at the Walnut Creek Country Club in Mansfield, Texas, from May 5 to 7. According to CSU-Pueblo's website, only nine teams and four individuals from the huge region were picked to compete in next week's event. The Top 3 (individual) at the regionals will then earn slots to the NCAA Division II National Championships, which will take place from May 14 to 17 in Conover, North Carolina.

The 22-year-old Kim was at the nationals last year after finishing third in the regionals. She is hoping to equal, if not surpass her feat in the regionals so she can make it to the nationals for the second straight time. Last year, Kim shot a 20-over-par score in four rounds to finish No. 28 at the nationals.

See YVONNE on Page 42

CSU-PUEBLO PHOTO
Leina Kim tees off during one of the tournaments in the RMAC this year.

Toka hands Blue Haus first loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

There is no more unbeaten team in the 2014 QQ Rent A Car Invitational Basketball League, as Toka mustered an 83-77 victory over defending champion Blue Haus last Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Toka snapped Blue Haus' four-game winning streak, while getting its third win in four games. Toka handed Blue Haus its first loss after having a strong finish and holding the latter to just one field goal in the last 5:14 of the match. The triumph also averted a Toka collapse, as it bungled a double-digit lead midway in the second period before showing toughness in the home stretch to halt Blue Haus' run.

Toka led by as much 15 in the second canto, 32-17, after a 10-3 scoring binge in the first four minutes and change of that frame and drawing 6 points from Jack Lizama. Blue Haus pressed the panic button and when the game resumed it launched a 13-0 run capped by Darwin Barbo's and-1 play to get back to business. The second canto ended with Toka just ahead by 4 points, 42-38.

It was a close battle from thereon, as the opposing teams took turns at the driver's seat. Blue Haus had the upper hand the last time at the 75-73 count after Brendon Talania canned a short jumper, going into the last five minutes and several seconds of the final canto. A triple

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Toka's Jason Lampkin gets away for a fastbreak layup against Blue Haus' Elmer Esdrelon during the third quarter of their game in the QQ caging last Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.